BUDGET
Spear defends athletics
Reid Wright

Athletic Director Rob Spear spoke to the Faculty Senate on Monday evening about the athletic department's budget cuts during economic hardship at the University of Idaho.

"There is no guarantee that we have not been impacted financially. It is totally not true," he said. "We have been significantly impacted."

Spear said the department suffered a nearly $675,000, or a 25 percent, holdback of state funds as well as an almost $183,000 strategic re-allocation of funds for the 2009 fiscal year.

"If we had zero percent body fat before the beginning of the year, we cut (in his muscles)," he said. "Most people question why we are keeping our assistant track coach, travel director, consolidation of sports banquet and a year-end junketing."

But as academic programs go under the axed as part of the Program Prioritization Process, Spear faced a chilly reception from some Faculty Council members. While some said they supported student athletics, they had reservations about the financial sustainability of a Division I athletic program at UI.

Other council members criticized the department for not making a direct profit and being allowed to pay 3 percent General and Administrative fee to the university while other departments pay 8 percent.

"I was not impressed with the numbers you presented as return of value to the university," said Paul Osaia, a council member. "I imagine a million a year in revenue and the university takes 43 percent of that. When your account is taxed 8 percent and when you see SPEAR, page 6

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

Chief Justice Roberts set to lecture
Marron Kolli

When John G. Roberts was nominated to become the Chief Justice of the United States, the associate dean of the University of Idaho College of Law, Rich Beeson, actually, and Rich Beeson, also a professor of law,

"An exiled Justice," Roberts confirmed by the United States Senate in September 2005, is a former 2005 Bellwood Lecturer on March 13 in the Student Union Building Ballroom.

Beeson and Roberts were employed by the Department of Justice's Office of the Solicitor General during the administration of President George W. Bush, under Kenneth Starr's tenure.

"There is a lot of pretty quickly after his confirmation, I brought about bringing him here," Beeson said. According to College of Law Dean Don Burnett, the first contact with the chief justice was made on Jan. 25, 2006, with sporadic contact since then.

For this engagement, the panel tasked with selecting Bellwood Lecturers - composed of the president of the state bar, the chief justice of the Idaho Supreme Court, and the dean of the College of Law - started making tentative plans a few months ago, he confirmed the date last month.

Roberts will be the third speaker over 12 years for the lecture series, followed by the late Idaho District Court judge Sherman J. Bellwood, a 1991 Vandall alumni who earned his doctorate of law from the University of Michigan two years later.

The Bellwood Lectures are the largest endowed lectureship at UI. Since 1997, the lecture series has brought U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, former U.S. Supreme Court justices.

See ROBERTS, page 6

Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts will be the 2006 Bellwood lecturer. He will speak March 15 in the Student Union Building Ballroom.
CampusPROFILE

Doug Baker
University of Idaho Provost

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing UI this semester?

"Implementing the strategic plan, through programs and activities, of the Provost, the Deans, and the other vice presidents of the University," Baker said.

What college have you noticed the most growth?

"College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. It has been on the rise," Baker said.

What are your goals and plans for the future of the university?

"I want to see our students more successful in the future," Baker said.

Any other comments you would like to make?

"No."

What would you do with a million dollars?

"I would give it to the students," Baker said.

What is the most difficult thing to be the Provost?

"The most difficult thing is to be the Provost."

What is your favorite book?

"I don't have a favorite book," Baker said.

What is your favorite food?

"I don't have a favorite food," Baker said.

Is there any new information or updates you would like to share with the campus?

"No, there is no new information or updates," Baker said.

Photo by Jack Baker
Stephanie Itale
Agenda

If a program prioritization proposal invoking the foreign language department's concerns was not accepted, it may have been only a minor defeat.

The foreign language department may experience some changes toward their majors and minors as a result of the Program Prioritization Process. An example of this could be a minor or majoring into the international studies major.

An official decision has not been made yet.

The department is comprised of six full-time faculty—Spanish, German, classical studies, and, at a recent addition, Japanese—and four part-time faculty.

The university's existing opt-out process is the best way to address the department's concerns about the program process.

The university has expanded the opt-out process as a way to address the department's concerns. However, it has not been effective.

The university has also expanded the opt-out process as a way to address the department's concerns. However, it has not been effective.

The main goal is to identify ideas that would have a positive impact on UI.

Michael O'Rourke
Agenda

The Faculty Council has given its stamp of approval to large-scale proposals organized by Arts and Social Sciences.

The interdisciplinary council is intended for large-scale proposals that require more than one department. The program also contains an option in nonprofit management.

The university has gone through a process in organizing the program's proposals. The process includes faculty and student input, as well as administrative review.

The proposals will be reviewed again with the new evaluation numbers that have been implemented.

UI's Campus of Alene has undergone a name change, and the university has been recognized.

The depth of the university's problems is more significant than what was initially thought.

The university has seen an increase in majoring in German, and the German department has been approved to make changes.

The committee was chosen in part because these people were able to work together. UI had a bad reputation about what UI was like.

The students have a voice in the process, and the faculty members are leading the way.

UI has given the faculty a chance to be part of the decision-making process.
**FAFSA priority deadline approaches**

Katie Moussley

Students who have not filed the free application for federal student aid are strongly encouraged to do so by Saturday for the best chance at funding for the 2009-2010 school year. FAFSA is an annual form all students and parents have to complete to receive federal aid. It can be filed at any time throughout the year, but the sooner it is completed, the better.

Once a student completes the form, it is sent to the school they choose or currently attend, and funds are distributed based on the student’s needs.

Dan Davenport, director of admissions and financial aid services, stressed the importance of filling out the documents and information needed to complete the form. He said many students qualify as dependent

if they are not married, not a veteran and are under 26. Dependent students are required to list information about their parents’ income and assets, and the form also inquires about family size.

"Most people won’t have their taxes done by Saturday, but please go online and do the paperwork you can do in a day or two and don’t wait until you’ve filed your tax return to fill out the FAFSA," Davenport said.

Davenport said one problem students run into with the form is not using their full name and correct Social Security number, which causes a problem when the FAFSA is compared to their Social Security Administration.

Another problem students face is listing the income taxes actually filed and not withholding, and making sure both parents and stu-

If you have experience in writing and think you have what it takes, BLOT wants YOU!

Pick up an application on the third floor of the SUB.
Local produce gives life to Moscow community

Cheri Thomas

Editors note: This story was featured exclusively on The Argonaut's online web- site early this semester.

The Moscow Food Co-op is a smaller store than BiRite, Rainbow or Win- co, but it has one thing they don't — local produce.

Jessie Wiley, produce manager at the co-op, said 50 percent of the products sold there are locally grown.

"In a month like this, we're up to 30 percent," she said.

Some of the locally grown crops often use a sub-

known as grey water, which is waste water from non-polluting activities like washing, bordery and dish-

washing, to irrigate crops.

Wiley said. This water can be used on vegetables and may have negative effects on soil. A local organic farm also does not cycles their crops, which depletes nutrients in the soil and makes farming less sustainable, Wiley said.

"It's nice to know where your food comes from," she said.

"With a local farm, you can go up to a farmer and see what they do." Wiley added. "California Organic and Earthbound Farms are huge," she said. "The smaller they are, the more they know the land exists."

Non-local farms may also use migrant workers, Wiley said, or even illegal workers who are paid low wages and not provided benefits.

"With locally grown produce, you're supporting your local economy," she said.

Charlotte Bunzel is a farmer at Gunpowder farm, part of a Daniel farming.

"We grow 11 different kinds of medicinal herbs and 45 vegetables," Bunzel said.

Potatoes and garlic are the main cash crops of the farm.

"We have three perma-

nent workers, and people who return put so many hours into the farm," she said.

The farm has been at its current location for 13 years, she said.

"We teach道士 healing practices," she said.

The hermitage also stud-

ies traditional Chinese medicine and meditation techniques.

Ken and Bette Bunzel raise crops at Living Soil Microfarm in Moscow and Geneseo. In addition to the standard garage and potato-

tions, they also grew beet and New Zealand spinach.

"We have our fruit trees," Bunzel said. "Straw-

berries, marionberries, peach-

es and plums are some of what we grow."

The Bunzels use all hand tools with raised bed methods of farming, which means they use one shoveling tool and keep it filled with soil to grow their pro-

duce, she said.

"We emphasize a diver-

sity of crops and we also emphasize using mold to provide organic compost," Bunzel said.

Living Soil Microfarms controls pests by strategi-

cally growing plants at criti-

cal times, which reduces the risk of insecticides, he said.

University raises gay marriage awareness

Same-sex couples seek equal rights during week, bringing light to the struggle

Don Barney

Agapolist

The right for same sex couples to marry was the in-

formation behind the Universi-

ity of Idaho's annual Free-

dom in Marriage Week, which began Monday.

"Freedom in Marriage Week is a time for people across the nation to view the fact that we are trying to get not a right," said Ken Bullion, gay guiding and trans-

sexual program ad-

ministrator in the Univer-

sity of Idaho's Women's Center.

This pro-

gram has been at UI for three years, she said.

"For Freedom in Marriage Week in 2007, we focused on educating people about mar-

riage prov-

ileges, last year we sponsored a panel speaker (Dan Savic-

age) in collaboration with the Garfield Society, and this year we would say we focused on the legal issues and family aspects," she said.

This year, there were two main events.

"On Wednesday, we showed a documentary named in 2004 about the mayor of San Francisco al-

lowing gay marriages and the repercussions that fol-

lowed," she said. "We also had students from the UI gay rights club and talking about the differences of partnerships and same sex marriage in other states."

"Marriage rights awareness couples is a huge topic of conversation in the larger culture," she said. "It is an important is-

sue that people need to be in-

formed about."

We have had a lot, and we work along-

side people who are getting married benefits we aren't."

On the Wednesday, we went from www.goddess.org to www.feminist.org from Bullion, who said, "Conven-

ience with the circle of peo-

ple around us is the preces-

sate to winning, the key to helping them push past their discomfort, complacency or trepidation in being supportive of our equality."

Wiley, a civil rights representative and speaker, leads the Freedom in Marriage program. The Web site en-

dures communication as an important role in the path to legal marriage rights.

"The observation of Free-

dom in Marriage Week is ob-

served on many campuses nationally," Wiley said. "It is a hot topic."

"Freedom in Marriage Week's success occurs on college campuses across the nation."

"We brainstormed on how to observe the secon-

date here," she said.

Everyone needs to be respected and have a voice," she said.

"It is my job to bring awareness on these types of topics and issues. Our cam-

paign is geared to create the kind of environment where people can feel respected and welcomed," she said.

She said she personally hopes gay marriage will eventually become more ac-

cepted. She and her partner have been together for more than 37 years.

"We care deeply about having our relationship recognized and being able to pro-

tect the life we've built together," said Rebecca Rod, program advisor.

Blot coming soon!

Odessa Mexican Dining

Valentine's Day Deal

February 14th & 15th

Buy One Entree

Get the Second FREE!

At the Palace Mall

Dine In Only. Not valid with any other offer.
Robert's page 1

Attorney General Janet Reno and others...

"...are our priorities..."

"...and our students..."

"...is to provide that..."

"...of our current and..."

"...will receive..."

"...herself..."

"...than the average..."

"...to provide..."

"...students..."

"...with..."

"...to keep on..."

"...in the current..."

"...the right..."

"...will not..."

"...will..."
Welcome chief justice to Idaho

The University of Idaho announced today that Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. will speak at the university’s commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 28.

The announcement comes after the university’s Board of Regents unanimously approved the selection of Roberts, who is currently serving as the chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, to give the commencement address.

The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. at the University of Idaho’s Kibler Center for Recreation and Wellness.

The event will feature music, speeches, and a procession of graduates. Roberts, who has served on the Supreme Court since 2005, is expected to deliver remarks on the importance of higher education and the role of the judiciary in a democratic society.

The University of Idaho is one of the state’s largest public universities, with an enrollment of more than 20,000 students. It is located in Moscow, Idaho, in Latah County.

Feminist Friday

Candidates lack diversity

The Idaho State Board of Education announced five finalists for the position of University of Idaho president last month. Two of the five finalists, Ken- nan Wright and Sandra Benson, are both women.

According to the university’s website, the search for a new president began last fall after the departure of President Bob Page, who retired after 18 years in the position.

The finalists include two women, Wright and Benson, and three men, Barry Bowen, Jens Smith, and Stanislav Furse.

Wright is currently the chancellor of the University of California, Santa Barbara, and has served in higher education administration for more than 30 years. Benson is currently the provost and executive vice president of the University of Idaho.

Bowen is the current president of Western Carolina University, and Smith is the current president of the Ohio State University.

Furse is the current vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of Minnesota.

Mailbox

The Argonaut published a story covering the University of Idaho’s search for a new president, which can be found in the Wisconsin State Journal.

Ombuds services expand

We appreciate your report that the University of Idaho has expanded its ombuds services. The ombuds office, which is located on the third floor of the Administration Building, is now open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The office, which is staffed by experienced ombuds, provides a neutral and confidential place for students, faculty, and staff to discuss concerns and issues.

The office provides a safe and confidential space for individuals to discuss issues and concerns.

Jena R. Fazio

Editor in Chief

208-374-4203

The Argonaut

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The Argonaut receives funding from the Student Activity Fee, which is approved by the Student Government Association.

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DIVERSITY
from page 7
The number of women in higher education administration is smaller than one might expect, but it is growing. In 1976, there were only 6,000 women holding faculty positions in higher education; today, there are more than 40,000.

In 1976, only 15% of all college presidents were women. Today, that number is 20%. Women are more likely to be found in the ranks of deans and vice presidents, but they are still underrepresented in the highest levels of administration.

Women in higher education face many challenges. They often have to work harder and longer than their male counterparts to gain recognition and advancement. They may also have to balance their personal and professional lives in ways that are not always easy.

However, there is hope. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the need for diversity in higher education. Many institutions are taking steps to ensure that women have equal opportunities to succeed.

For more information on women in higher education, visit the National Center for Educational Statistics website at www.nces.ed.gov. For a list of women's studies programs at colleges and universities, visit the Women's Studies Association of the United States website at www.wsaus.org.
Looking to Nepal

Megan Bousley
Associated Press

Flashes of enthralling sounds, sights and brightly colored fabrics could be experienced from outside the Student Union Building Ballroom doors Sunday night.

Inside, these sounds, sights and sights became illuminated under a spotlight, faculty and community members alike experienced a night of Nepal culture during Taste of Nepal.

The Nepali Student Association is responsible for the cultural event — the exhibition is one of only two events they put on each year.

Also known as "Nepal Night," the event features dancers, songs and food specific to Nepal. Utilizing the NSA's goal to "bring about better understanding of Nepali, promote culture and tradition to create social interaction along with peace and harmony among the myriad of cultures within the university."

Nepal is a central-Asian landlocked country with a population fluctuating around 29 million. Geographically, the country is north of India and is home to the highest mountain range on the face of the earth and any climber's ultimate goal — Mount Everest.

But with natural wonders, Nepal isn't immune to political strife. For 70 years, the nation has been struggling through civil war involving the different Nepalese communist party. Nepal is still battling for its sovereignty.

Brooke Anderson, a University of Idaho graduate student, attended this year's Nepal Night, and said she was thoroughly impressed with the group and how the event turned out.

"It's literally a chance to see into another person's culture," she said. "I'm interesting to realize the differences in our societies. Besides that, Nepal is great!"

The event has grown since its beginning in 2002, and this year continued strong as the NSA sold out the event in less than seven minutes.

The hall was filled to capacity, leaving only standing room.

"We had to get our tickets pretty early," Anderson said. "It's great that our campus is enthusiastic about something like this. It's encouraging."

Nepal Night featured on-stage dramatic explanations of Nepali festivals, dramatic and family relationships, as well as vocal and dance performances. On September 20, the show fulfilled its dedication to the goddess.

"I just can't get over how amazing it was," said sophomore Brittany McCroan. "The colors, the sounds, the jokes, but especially the food. I didn't really know what to expect. You can tell they have been working on this for a long time and we are very impressed."

The proceeds from Nepal Night support the United Nations Children's Fund.

Woman sends a message through Haitian plays

Anne-Marie Rook
Associated Press

At 5 feet 2 inches with dreadlocks, Nancy Casey isn't by any means a big proponent of her height or Optimus Prime.

As she prepared to open for a night out at another trip to Haiti, Casey is providing comfort and needs for women and children on the Haitian island of LaGosse.

Photos of beaded gifts with big smiles, green fish, palm trees and pink children flashed on the projection screen at BookPeople Wednesday evening as Casey satisfied the slides.

Joiner on her way to church. A school where adult women are young third grade children. Women cooking. A play about Blue. A maltreated 7-year-old girl who lacks.

It has been two years since she last saw all and the excitement in Casey's eyes and voice was noticeable.

"Casey is going back to help the Haitian women's group, the Mount. Mount is her group of women in their village. She's been associated with doctors and the advice and support of children. Famin Konsol is a woman's group dedicated to improving the situations of women and children in LaGosse."

With the majority of people being illiterate and women being a largely rootless society, the mediums they use are kept very simple. The women know how to make food herself and how to map through plays and performances.

In such plays, performances

"If you go to Haiti for a month, you can write a book. If you go for a year, you can't say another word."

— Nancy Casey

Performing the theater pieces, Casey narrates the experiences of women's lives. Women are always in their houses, forbidden to leave or talk to other women.

Nancy Casey describes her experiences in a village in Haiti during "A Courageous Woman's" slide show presentation at BookPeople Wednesday night.

For the presentation, women receive information and the opportunity to discuss such issues as violence, violence, violence. Youth pregnancy is a major topic.

Teenage pregnancy is a major topic in a culture where it's hard enough to feed your children, let alone a woman."

Casey said she felt a sense of family with the women students, and in the back of her mind, it was one of the best parts of the trip.

"I have my advisor, our Icelandic—"

Nina Krayen/Argonaut

Look for the published ad in the Idaho Statesman.

She made me wish I had the best

To order your tickets online, visit the Student Union Building.
The beeps, bloopos, video games

More than 45 million Nintendo Wii have now been sold, and it's easy to see why. The console introduces a new world to video games. In fact, video games were once considered to be unsuited to play video games. It's very easy to see why. The console introduces a new world to video games. In fact, video games were once considered to be unsuited to video games. It's very easy to see why.

The Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) is the console...
Quick Hits

Vandals in action on Friday

Men's tennis — The Vandals took on Gonzaga at 6 p.m. in the Cowan Spectrum.

Women's basketball — After an up-and-down brutal road trip of the season, the Vandals returned to Moscow and New Mexico State, the Vandals return for a 7 p.m. home game in the Cowan Spectrum.

Saturday

Women's tennis — The Vandals will take on San Jose State in a Western Athletic Conference match-up. Tip-off is set for 7:00 p.m. in the Cowan Spectrum.

Track and field — University of Idaho track and field is hitting the road in the Husky Indoor Classic. The meet will take place with the starting time to be announced.

Sunday

Women's basketball — University of Idaho's women will wrap-up a two-game home series against Eastern Washington University in the Cowan Spectrum. Tip-off is set for 2 p.m.

Vandals to watch

Paul Dietter

Track and field

Dietter earned his second career win, as the Vandals defeated Eastern Washington 2-1 on Thursday. Dietter has set a career-record breaking performance as the men's 60-meter hurdles distance runner for the Vandals. Dietter ran the second to break the record of 14:57.74 set by Henry Hugh in 1983. In the first meet, Diller did himself one better, breaking in the record with a blazing 7.69.

Did you know...

The Vandals basketball game Thursday against University of New Mexico earned the highest nationally ranked attendance in the history of the University of Idaho.

Utah State, led by the Aggies were ranked 17 in the nation. No. 31 and 21 in the coaches poll.

Vandals by the numbers

41 Vandals Luciano Dececco led the Vandals to a 2-1 victory over Nevada. Dececco has dropped all four of his service attempts this season.

74 UH men's basketball player Mar- vin Jefferson has committed a turnover in each of the past nine contests.

151 Women's Baset- ketball's Vidae Cooper has a team-high 151 minutes played this season.

22 Last night was the first time since 1995 that the Vandals gave up 2.25 to 9.92 in points. Utah State scored 2.25 points in the first half, and then 9.92 in the second half.

Obscure stat of the week

Charles Rademaker holds the honor of lowest batting average as a season, with a .172 average in 1993. The 1913-15 season saw some very low numbers, with a 7 percent won percentage.

Cheyenne Helfin

Against

Located on a gravel road outside Moscow city limits is a site where several University of Idaho students begin practice on a cold Tuesday night.

The UI pole club will be practicing on the roof of the Idaho Athletic Center for the next three weeks and bring home the gold for the school.

Iowa State has recently been leading the nation in pole vaulting and set a new record for the island at the university.

Still the world's largest outdoor arena, the University of Idaho will play against the University of Washington on Saturday.

The Vandals will be out to prove that they have a good pole vaulting team.

The club is excited to bring home an impressive return from the university.

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**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

Brazilian Ballers

Three Vandals sit down with The Argonaut

Morgan Boyles

The Vandals have three players with something unusual in common. While many teams in the NCAA look outside of the United States for recruits, UI is unique in this it has three players from the same South American country, Brazil.

Luis Augusto, Lucas de Souza and Luiz Toledo all came to Brazil from different schools around the U.S. but bound themselves to Moscow, playing for the Vandals. The Argonaut had an opportunity to talk to them about their experience here.

Augusto is a forward from San Jose de Rio Preto, Brazil. Augusto played for Western Oklahoma State before coming to Moscow to play. De Souza is a junior forward from Mato, Brazil, the transferred to Idaho from the Modesto Community College. He is this first season as a Vandal. Toledo is a transfer from Marajapolis, Brazil. The forward will play with Idaho next season.

Why do you decide to live here?

De Souza: "I think the education in the U.S. is better, and the basketball is better, too. It's another level. Here it's harder. Eventually you can make money if you go pros. If you go a degree and go back to Brazil, you can get a good job.

Augusto: In pursuit of my education, also to try to play basketball, because here there are more opportunities to a better life than there are in Brazil.

Toledo: I came here first because Nene (Boyle's cousin, a power forward for the Denver Nuggets) came. He was supposed to actually play for a university, and then he asked me if I wanted to come play in high school... Then I decided to study here instead of in Brazil. When you're 18, you just want to get out of country. That's a lie to live in Brazil.

LT: It is the best place to live.

DSD: If you have money, of course it is the best place to live. It's not, and there are beautiful women everywhere.

LA: The southern weather is better the whole year. It's like summer all year round.

What has been the hardest thing about becoming acclimated to Moscow?

LT: This city is small. San Paolo is way bigger than here, and there are more things you can do here. In the U.S. I was around San Francisco, and when I was living there I was able to move back to a small city, it's different.

LA: What do you do here if your wedding day?

DSD: Well, we have a video game...

LA: We have a movie too. To be honest, we don't even have time to have a video game, we have too much work.

LT: We all work the same around. We're not student-athletes, we're athlete-students. What do you want do if you free time?

DSD: Get a degree of course... get a degree and go back to Brazil and get a big job. But I want to... keep playing basketball in Europe or somewhere.

LA: I like kids and stuff, so I'd like to be a coach later in life.

LT: I'll probably end up living here in the U.S. I'm thinking of playing basketball (or maybe) just stay here with friends and live in America.

LA: I just try to keep playing basketball as long as I can.

LT: How is it that you will be able to keep playing after college?

DSD: In Europe, there are so many teams. It's a lot of colleges right now are wolking as play from everywhere, so we have a good chance to go play somewhere else. That tells it 6 the language here? We get the U.S., some of us speaking any English. Zero. When they would ask me, I would say "I don't know." LA: Or just "yes."

DSD: "I don't speak English" was the only thing when I got here.
Mom doesn't buy ruling on shooting

Shelby Byrd
Associated Press

LUCKEY, Miss. (AP) — The trial of an Olympic hockey star has ended in a mistrial, and the American hockey player Kelly Johnson didn't see justice for an unpopular notion of him 21 years ago.

Johnson is acquitted

Johnson, 34, a former Olympic hockey player, was acquitted of arson charges in a trial that lasted more than two weeks. The jury deliberated for less than two hours before reaching its verdict.

The case centered around a fire that broke out in a building near the Olympic Village in Salt Lake City during the 1998 Winter Games. Johnson and his wife, Sarah, were charged with arson in the fire, which destroyed a building and forced the evacuation of thousands of athletes and spectators.

The couple had been staying in the Olympic Village at the time of the fire, and they were later charged with breaking into the building and setting the fire.

Johnson and his wife pleaded not guilty to the charges, saying they were false and fabricated by their former landlord, who wanted to evict them from the apartment.

The couple was later cleared of all charges, and the case against them was dropped.

Johnson, who represented the United States in the 1998 Winter Olympics, had been accused of setting the fire as an act of protest against the World Anti-Doping Agency, which had suspended the US Olympic Committee from the 1998 Games.

The case violated the federal Anti-Defamation Law, which prohibits interference with a person's constitutional rights through the use of force or fear.

Johnson said the couple's arrest by authorities was a witch hunt and that they were being targeted because they were gay.

Johnson and his wife had been planning to travel to Salt Lake City when the couple was arrested, but they were then arrested by federal agents and held without bail for more than a year.

They were later released on bail and went on to become prominent advocates for gay rights.

The case against the couple was dismissed in 2000 after a judge ruled that the charges were unsupported by evidence.

The couple then moved to Canada, where they are now living.

The couple's case was a major victory for advocates of gay rights, who had long been calling for an end to discrimination against gay people.

The case opened the door for other gay rights activists to speak out against discrimination.

The couple's case also inspired the creation of the Human Rights Campaign, which is now the largest gay rights organization in the United States.