HAVE YOU HEARD?

The ASUI Center for Volunteerism & Social action and the Genesee School System are partnering to update the school playground!

Learn how you or your business can help at www.asui.uidaho.edu/Volunteer/KaBoom!

Idaho Commons and Student Union Building
summer hours:
Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-6 p.m.
Friday 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday Closed

Volunteer this summer!
Stop by the ASUI Center for Volunteerism & Social Action to learn how!

Need Outdoor Equipment?
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Discover at the Idaho Commons & Student Union

Inside

Eatin' meat at VJ's BBQ

Newly opened VJ's BBQ on the Troy highway offers a "taste of Texas." Summer Arg's Matt Doyle reviews the claim. See page 9.

The Argonaut poll:
The last poll question of the school year is still posted and receiving votes. The question is, "How often will school be on your mind over the summer?" If you're in Moscow and reading this, the answer is probably "Every day when I go to class." But right now the votes are:
24: "I go to school!"
15: "August 18."
14: "When the bell comes."
8: "When the financial aid statements come in."

on the WEB for all this and more, visit www.uiargonaut.com

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On the cover:
Yak provides a healthy beef alternative (page 8). Photo by Carissa Wright/Summer Arg.

Summer Arg

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The woes of a June 1 lease

I hate moving.
Everyone in Moscow with a lease that started June 1 is nodding in agreement right now. Moving sucks.

First of all, there’s the challenge of finding a place that isn’t a complete crap, which, in Moscow, is harder than you might think. A college student looking for a place that isn’t a huge complex is kind of a pain — there aren’t very many two bedroom houses or decent duplexes in this town.

Then there’s the waiting. The month or so between signing a lease and moving in to your brand new home will almost certainly be the longest of your life. And of course the two or three days before moving in will be the shortest of your life, with the most that needs to be done.

And, of course, the actual process of moving. If you’re like me, your thought process went something like this:

Actually packing my stuff? Nah. I’ll just throw it in the back of the car, since I’m only driving halfway across town.

Sure. About 65 times. After the seventh load of haphazardly “packed” cardboard boxes overflowing with crap that used to litter my desk, I was ready to live in a tent in someone else’s living room for the next year. At least then I wouldn’t have to lift any heavy furniture.

Speaking of — let’s not talk about moving heavy furniture. It’s a sore (and I do mean sore) subject.

Then, once you’re finally in your new home with all of your stuff, you have to settle in. And that’s never as easy as it seems. Furniture, now in your home, needs to be moved. Your toothbrush disappeared somehow along the line, and you don’t actually have a garbage can anywhere in the house. Off to Wal-Mart you go, for the first of many inevitable trips. You’ll realize that you forgot to get the water filter, and somebody whose clothes have multiplied and you’ve run out of empty hangers.

But hey, even with the heartache and headache of moving, we’ve got a new Summer Arg for you! This one’s full of treasures including an update from the Philmont Ranch (“A fire extinguished,” page 10), a look at yak farming in Idaho (“Taking on the cow,” page 8) and a peek inside the culture of spelling bees and crossword championships (“Word Nerds,” page 6).

And as always, the Summer Arg is looking out for you these next two weeks, keeping you up to date with what’s going on in town (Local Calendar, page 8).

Keep your eyes peeled for our next issue on June 20 — maybe by then I’ll have unpacked.

Carlissa Wright
Editor in Chief
argonaut@uidaho.edu

Get a summer start on health!
WeightWatchers

New 10-week session
Begins June 21
Cost is $120 (prepaid 10-week program)
Meets Thursdays
Noon-1 p.m. in the SRC classroom

Learn to manage your weight through healthy nutrition and lifestyle choices and get the support you need to achieve your goal. Open to all UI employees, retirees, students and spouses/partners.

For more details, contact worklife@uidaho.edu or www.uihome.uidaho.edu/worklife.
Idaho official nominated for BLM leadership

President George Bush has nominated James Caswell, formerly the head of the state's Office of Species Conservation, to lead the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management.

Under Caswell's leadership, the Office of Species Conservation has dealt with two politically-charged issues: wolf management in the state and grizzly bear management in Yellowstone Park. Former Idaho governor and current Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne praised Caswell, saying the administration's "can do" attitude and "outstanding leadership skills."

The nomination requires Senate approval. The Bureau of Land Management manages 258 acres, approximately one-eighth of the land in the United States.

Correction

Due to reporter error, the Web exclusive about former UI student Austin Hanchey, who died while studying abroad in New Zealand, will not appear in the Summer Arg or on the Argonaut Web site. We apologize for any inconvenience.

CrosswordPUZZLE

| ACRoss | 1 Nautical raptor | 4 Samms and Lazarus | 9 Dillon and Damion | 14 Org. of Flyers and Jets | 15 Holier Helmsley | 16 Actor Flynn | 19 Olong or hyson | 23 Michigan city | 29 Groovy! | 36 Weapons | 37 Viewed | 46 Type of neck | 52 Warrior | 53 Two of a kind | 61 Appusterity | 71 Tackled on | 73 Union charge | 85 Michigan | 86 Impotent | 97 Period in power | 118 Bums around | 130 Self-image | 131 Wars"Wheel of Fortune" partner | 144 Flat-top hills | 159 Telephoning | 160 On the rocks | 177 Young adults | 200 Fully attentive | 231 One at the wheel | 57 Lurid neckline | 58 Shaver contents | 60 Score lure | 61 Tex-Mex order | 62 Scatterbrained | 67 Sky denizen | 68 Roy's Dale | 69 Actress Dickinson | 70 Actress Lupino | 71 Turn counter back to zero | 72 Roebuck's partner | 73 Bear's home |

| DOWN | 1 Scheduled next | 2 At what pace? | 3 Andie's grazer | 4 Hobbit ally | 5 Crooner Tomes | 6 Skin-care product | 7 Author Tyler | 8 Fills full | 9 Follows | 10 "Just the Way You..." | 11 On the road | 12 Lugs | 13 Gin fruits | 21 At Capone | 23 Kernal | 24 Homer's epic | 27 "Much...About nothing" | 29 Like ravens | 30 Poodles | 32 Finger or toe | 34 Statley tree | 35 Leader of The Three Stooges | 36 Feet | 37 Assembly halls |

Solutions

8 Fill full number 10 "Just the Way You..." 11 On the road 12 Lugs 13 Gin fruits 21 At Capone 23 Kernal 24 Homer's epic 27 "Much...About nothing" 29 Like ravens 30 Poodles 32 Finger or toe 34 Statley tree 35 Leader of The Three Stooges 36 Feet 37 Assembly halls 58 "Solve" 59 "Extra" 101 "Doomed" 111 "Tracy" 161 "Glance" 231 "Note" 321 "Devil" 581 "Smith" 831 "Blonde"

SudokuPUZZLE

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Check out the Summer Arg on the web!

www.uiargonaut.com
Three Vandal football players booted for book theft

By Jeremy Castillo
Summer Arg

Three players on the University of Idaho football team were cut after selling stolen books during the most recent buyback.

During finals week, the athletes were taking textbooks from the shelves and trading them in for cash at UI's main bookstore and its branch in the Idaho Commons, said bookstore manager Peg Godwin.

A bookstore employee spotted some suspicious activity and reported it to Godwin. After reviewing security camera footage and an internal investigation, the bookstore confirmed the thefts and notified the athletic department and the student judiciary board.

Charges were not filed because Godwin didn't think involving the police was necessary. All the stolen books were recovered and she felt the punishment from the school was sufficient enough.

"If we go to the police, it's very expensive to prosecute," Godwin said. "If I'm talking about finding a $500 book, then the student judiciary board is effective enough." Because of their actions and the subsequent release from the team, the three athletes caught stealing books have lost their scholarships through the athletic department, said Maureen Taylor Regan, assistant athletics director for academic services and financial aid.

Rob Spear, UI's athletics director, said the decision to cut the players came internally but wouldn't release their names for the sake of privacy.

Student athletes are not allowed to participate in regular buyback if their scholarships include a book stipend.

Spear said at the beginning of every semester, the athletes are loaned books through the department, sign documents making them responsible for the texts and return them when classes end for the semester.

This system was set up because athletes returning the department's texts through the Bookstore would be an "accounting nightmare," Regan said.

If books are not returned by the due date, students' accounts are charged for the price of the book. However, the books then become the athlete's personal property.

The athletic department sells returned texts to the UI bookstore or to an online outlet. If they can't find a buyer, the texts are donated to the UI library or the Books for Africa program.

Local BRIEFS

UI engineering students get a chance to blast into space

For years, the term "rocket science" has been synonymous with difficult but for two Vandalis, those words might mean "big money."

Jason Stipe and Armin Dahal will be competing for a $500,000 prize in NASA's Space Elevator 2010 Annual Games, created to encourage engineers to find more cost-effective ways to explore space.

The event features teams testing small-scale prototype climbers, power beaming sources and tether technologies.

Stipe and Dahal, both engineering majors, had the competition's $2,500 entry fee covered by UI's College of Engineering. Professors Brian Johnson and David Atkinson are the faculty advisors for the project.

Native American Student Center gets new director

Steven Martin has been named the director of the Native American Student Center.

Martin, a Muskogee Creek, is currently the Native American student adviser with South Dakota State University's Office of Multicultural Affairs. He'll take his post at UI on July 2.

"Before his time at SDSU, Martin worked at Dakota State University as its Native American student adviser and judicial affairs coordinator. He has also taught Native American Students at St. Joseph's Indian School."

Martin hopes to accomplish several things with his new post at UI, including education and career planning, transition assistance and coordinating cultural activities for Native American Students.

New tribal liaison to bring university, tribes together

Arthur M. Taylor, a Nez Perce tribal member, will take his new position as UI on August 6. He hopes to develop culturally sensitive and mutually beneficial protocols for relationships, communication and projects coordinated by UI and Native American tribes.

Taylor is no stranger to this campus or its surrounding areas. He once taught an anthropology course at UI and has served in Idaho Workforce Investment Act Board and its Youth Council, Idaho Council on Indian Affairs and Idaho Indian Education Board.

Outside of Idaho, Taylor spent six years on the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Council and has been the University of Notre Dame's assistant director of multicultural student programs and services since 2002.

New MFA coordinator receives award, recognition for writing

Brandon Schrand, incoming coordinator of UI's Master of Fine Arts program, is already proving a wise choice with some help from his past.

Schrand received the 2007 River Teeth Award in literary fiction for "The Enders Hotel," his upcoming memoir that retells stories of his family's southern Idaho hotel and its patrons over the years. He'll also receive $1,500 prize money.

"More than the current issue of "Tin House," a literary magazine based in California, features his essay "Wrestling Gene Simmons and Other Demons," in which Schrand examines his fascination with KISS, its lead singer and how people identify with their heroes.

Moscow City Council member quits to join Clinton campaign

Moscow mayor Nancy Chaney announced Tuesday that City Council member Bob Stout has resigned his position. Stout has been a council member for two years. He will go to Iowa to work with Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

In his letter of resignation, he expressed his gratitude for the chance to help lead the community for two years.

"I have immensely enjoyed my time on the council and feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve the Moscow community and make so many life-long friends," Stout wrote. "I wish you all luck as you lead Moscow."

Chaney wished Stout luck in Iowa, and said that his "passion for our community and public service was evident in his service on the City Council."

Upward Bound programs receive more than $3 million

The University of Idaho will receive more than $8 million in federal grant awards for three Upward Bound projects. The three approved grants total $3,741,780 over four years.

Upward Bound serves high school students from low-income families, high school students from families which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree, and low income, first generation military veterans who are preparing to enter postsecondary education. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll and graduate from institutions in post-secondary education.
Eighth-grader represents Idaho at Bee Week

By Christina Navarro
Summer Arg

An all expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. was brought to Gabriel Cheeley by the word macramé — well, by spelling it correctly.

After participating in the North Idaho Regional Spelling Bee sponsored by Hagadone Newspapers on March 10, the eighth-grader from Post Falls made it to the 88th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.

May 30 and 31 are a part of Bee Week, when participants from all over the United States compete for the chance to make it to the finals on ESPN, and to win.

Cheeley only made it as far as the bottom two thirds of the competition, but still came a long way for his first time at Nationals.

He said this was his first time competing seriously, and decided to try at Regionals.

"I just like spelling because I read so much," Cheeley said. "My mom decided to put me in the local spelling bee, and (I) ended up here."

After winning the regional competition, Cheeley said the experience was fun.

"I was kind of surprised," he said. "I didn't study for Regionals, and didn't expect to make it (to Nationals)."

Having only one month to prepare for the competition in D.C., Cheeley studied between one-two hours every day.

"I studied Greek and Latin roots mostly, and words from 'Nat's Notes' — a book with formerly used words," he said.

Cheeley said he had to suppress some butterflies in the competition.

"I was mostly just nervous, but after I solved the word and got it right, I felt better. When you're just sitting there waiting to go on stage, it's just kind of nerve racking," Cheeley said.

"But it's still fun and exciting.

Gabriel's mother, grandmother, and eight-year-old sister accompanied him to D.C.

LeeAnn Cheeley, Gabriel's mother, said spelling comes easily, and has evolved for him.

"Gabriel is one of those kids, where because he's so smart he doesn't have to study so much," she said.

"He gets everything right on his spelling test and he reads, reads and reads, which only helps his spelling skills."

His mother added that a capacity for learning like Gabriel's can be a blessing or a curse with something like competing in national spelling bees.

"He might have studied about an average of two hours a day for this, but the winners who make it to the final 12 positions are eating, breathing and living spelling all the time," LeeAnn said.

"Others go through dictionaries five to six inches thick, word by word."

She was amazed that young students compete like this on a regular basis.

"It's an interesting world—I never knew this existed," she said.

Competition aside, the event was a place to make friends.

"There were some of the kids that were really, really competitive," Cheeley said, "but there were some that I met and I made friends with."

LeeAnn said the event is very low-key, leaving plenty of time for study, or for fun.

"(The organizers) arrange picnics and tours and fun things to do," she said. "It's high pressure, but two-thirds of the participants are immediately eliminated the first morning. For all those kids, it's just a fun experience."

After everything, Cheeley said coming to Nationals is something he wants to do again.

"It's been really fun," he said. "It's a great experience." He added that he enjoyed sightseeing and visiting the nation's capital.

"We would not have made this trip if it wasn't for this event," LeeAnn said.

She said this experience has meant a lot to Gabriel and others.

"It's a very positive experience for the kids. It's not a competitive spirit for kids — just wishing each other well," Lee Ann said. "It's been really positive for (Gabriel), and I can see why he wants to come back and do it again."

Sponsors such as Leap Frog, Franklin Spellers and other companies give away prizes to the participants.

Gabriel won an electronic dictionary in his free gift package, which LeeAnn said he is enjoying very much.

"I'd like to go back and get more of that," he tells me," Lee Ann said. "He loves stuff like that. It was right up his alley."

Two documentary films inspired by Webster's own

By Christina Navarro
Summer Arg

Take a look into the world of words. From Spelling Bee competitions to Scrabble and crossword puzzle tournaments, competitors with a passion for words master spelling, vocabulary and wordplay. For some, they do it just because it comes naturally. Others work hard to improve their skills.

The thing that makes these word-inspired documentaries so great is the array of personalities.

The participants are what make these films what they are.

While last issue's DVDs worked your creative side, these will leave you with words on the brain.

Spellbound

Where "everyone wants the last word," this documentary should be cross-listed under the suspense category.

"Spellbound" follows the lives of eight students as they prepare to compete in the 1999 Scripps National Spelling Bee Competition.

The film introduces the final contestants in the Nationals as they prepare for the competition.

After getting to know more about them, the tension builds whenever it's their turn.

During the competition, the brilliance of these kids is enough to make a dog's tail shy between its legs, or make Wayne Campbell cry, "I'm not worthy."

The other contestants practically shake in their seats, but by this time viewers should be on the floor. Viewers may actually find themselves spelling along with the contestants, and likely failing. Miserably.

It's amazing just how much goes into a word: its meaning, the language of origin and root word, then on top of that, its pronunciation.

Contestants are able to spell not only English words, but also words from other languages. German and French words popped up, and even a Spanish word here and there.

The film portrays how different families approach the competition. From hiring professional coaches to letting their child work at his own pace, different approaches and views color the journey the contestants take throughout the film.

Ashley practices by spelling words out on a desk with Scrabble pieces, and studying words from the dictionary. Neil recites 7,000-8,000 words per day, while his father researches collected data from previous spelling bees, just to see why people fail. He also hired coaches for different languages.

The film demonstrates not just the contestants' talent and passion for spelling, but their drive and determination.

The best thing about this DVD is the
This 2004 documentary shines a light on the competitive Scrabble culture, and the fascinating aspects that come with it. Yet like the other two films, it's the people that make it what it is.

Meet Matt, Joe, Marlon and G.I. Joel.

Matt's always mooching cash from people while Marlon utilizes his Scrabble skills to help the inner-city school's Scrabble Club. Then there's Joe, the three-time national champion who meditates and tries to psyche out his adversaries with Tai Chi. The guy is pretty into himself, but he's nothing compared to the almost freaky fourth personality, G.I. Joel.

G.I. Joel has aggressive gastro intestinal issues, and is not afraid to talk about it — or more like keep things down with his handkerchief or a bottle of Maalox.

The best part is when the participants start going on about creating an inoffensive Scrabble dictionary, which would act as a guideline for inappropriate words.

One thing worth mentioning about this documentary is its focus on the Scrabble culture in general, not just on organized competition.

The Scrabble tournaments that take place in New York's Washington Square Park are more exciting than the official tournaments.

$5 bets are placed per game, with a nickel added per point. During one of these tournaments, a local restaurant owner schools self-proclaimed Scrabble master Joe.

What makes this word-art different from solving crossword puzzles or studying for spelling bees is the luck of the draw.

Many have selected their fair share of bad tiles during a game of Scrabble.

With tiles of only vowels, or random letters like X, Z, or Q, how easy could it be?

The film itself is as entertaining as it is interesting, although it might not be able to hold viewers' attention for longer than 40 minutes — ones who aren't die-hard Scrabble fans, anyway.

“Where are they now” bonus feature.

It's clear throughout the film that these children are incredibly bright — but seeing where they are now is evidence. Interestingly enough, most of the finalists from the 1999 competition went on to major in subjects like math, physics or chemical engineering, rather than fields where words are the focus.

Word Wars

A documentary on Scrabble presents a haunting idea of what could happen to overly obsessed spelling bee enthusiasts who don't win.

“Word Wars: Tiles and Tribulations on the Scrabble Circuit,” looks into the lives of four Scrabble enthusiasts and Scrabble competitions.

Photo illustration by Bruce Mann/Summer Arg
Taking on the cow
Idaho yak farmer offers an alternative red meat

By Carlissa Wright
Summer Arg

Tammie Damiano, owner and operator of the Tamarack Yak Farm, has been raising yaks for seven years. For the last five, she and her husband, John, have been eating nothing but. At a recent doctor's appointment where John's cholesterol level had dropped by 80 points, their doctor asked where he could get some yak meat.

Though according to Damiano there are only about 5,000 yaks in North America, the demand for their meat is growing. Yak, an animal native to Tibet, presents a healthier alternative to poultry and beef.

"Yak meat has two times the protein and half the fat as skinless chicken breasts," Damiano says, adding that the meat is usually 95-97 percent lean and since the fat is a separate layer from the meat, yak meat isn't marbled like beef.

"They're a close cousin to buffalo so they're really healthy for you," Damiano says. Tamarack yaks, she is quick to point out, are grass-fed and free-range, and are never given corn, chemicals or hormones. None are cloned, either, she says.

At the farm in Santa, Idaho, Damiano has 67 yaks, including seven calves born this year. Before moving two years ago, the farm was located in Sandpoint.

Though few retail stores offer her product — the Moscow Food Co-op and Pilgrims Nutrition in Coeur d'Alene are two — Damiano and the Tamarack Yak Farm trailer make weekly appearances at farmers' markets throughout the region. On Saturday, she will make the trip to the Co-op to offer yak meat samples and answer questions about the animal.

Scott Jaklin, the Co-op's meat department manager, says that Damiano's yak is one of a few alternative red meats offered at the store, along with buffalo and elk.

"People who like buffalo say that (yak) is to their taste," he says. "I've heard a few people say it's better than buffalo."

Though for now Damiano sells mostly meat products, she plans to expand. Harvesting the hair the yaks shed is her first step.

"This is one of the lightest, warmest wools in the world," she says, fingering a handful of fiber. "Once they get used to us touching them every day, we'll brush them." Now, the hair just falls out in the fields and feels, making it difficult to spin into yarn.

What fiber Damiano can harvest, she sends to Prince Edward Island for spinning. She tried spinning the fiber herself, she says, but decided her efforts would be better spent raising the animals. In addition to yarn, the fibers can be used to make four-by-four felted pads, which are very warm and waterproof.

Tibetans, Damiano says, use similar pads for roofing and insulation.

Dairy farming is another direction Damiano would like to expand, though currently she doesn't have the capacity. Yak milk, she says, is closer to a goat's milk than a cow's, and makes a rich and flavorful cheese.

While dairy and fiber harvesting are plans for the future, Damiano is happy doing what she's doing now. After seven years and a move from Sandpoint to Santa, she's showing no signs of slowing down.

Local/CALENDAR

Today
Dirty Earth at the Alley
Dirty Earth plays from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at John's Alley.

Thursday
"Black Book"
"Black Book" (R), the story of a Dutch-Jewish girl who survived the war in Holland, plays at 7 p.m. at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre.

Dirty Earth at the Alley
10 p.m.-2 a.m., John's Alley

Friday
"Black Book"
7 p.m., the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre.

No River City at the Alley
No River City, an unsigned alt-country band, plays from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at John's Alley.

Saturday
Family Fishing Fun
Idaho Department of Fish and Game hosts a family fishing day from 9 a.m.-noon at Spring Valley Reservoir.

"Black Book"
7 p.m., the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre.

Read 1984 at the Alley
Read 1984 plays from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at John's Alley.

Pay Dirt Farm School
Learn organic pest management techniques during this 10 a.m.-2 p.m. class at Mary Jane's Farm. Registration is $25. For information or to register, call 882-6819.

Sunday
"Black Book"
3:30 and 7 p.m., the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre.

Tuesday
Growers' Market at the Co-op
The Moscow Food Co-op will host a local growers' market from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parking lot.

June 15
"Miss Potter"
7 p.m., the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre.

Eighthack Mind at the Alley
Eighthack Mind, a hip-hop group that's performed with Tone Loc, the Wailers, and the Wu-Tang Clan, plays from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at John's Alley.

June 16
Build Day at Lion's Park
From 8 a.m.-noon, the Moscow Central Lions Chapter is hosting a build day to rebuild the Lion's Park playground, located on the corner of Blaine Street and White Avenue.

June 17
"Miss Potter"
4:45 and 7 p.m., the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre.

June 19
Jerry Joseph at the Alley
Jerry Joseph, a rock artist who tours solo or with one of his two bands, The Stockholm Syndrome and The Jackmons, will play from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at John's Alley.
New Moscow barbecue offers Texas-style lunch

By Matt Doyle
Summer Arg

The new VJ’s BBQ, located just past the intersection of Jackson and Main on the Troy Highway, delivers “a taste of Texas” for a price. If money (sandwiches are between $5-8) and small appetites (you get up to a half-pound of meat) are not an issue, VJ’s BBQ is a perfect compromise for those who can’t find the time to stand behind a grill.

The menu offers a variety of classic barbecue favorites such as ribs, pulled pork, potato salad and ranch style beans. The only smells missing are sunscreen and lighter fluid.

Sitting outside on the patio of VJ’s is a huge, black, barrel-shaped grill the half the size of a car. Lying beside it, a pile of stubby, rugged logs wait to be tossed inside.

Employee Vince Amodio puts the final touches on some chicken in the smoker outside VJ’s BBQ.

Great for the summer but a potential problem when winter sets in, most seating is on the patio. Already, it fills up quickly. The outdoor landscape is limited to the grill and the Troy Highway, but the food is worth sacrificing the view.

While on a break, in a rush or buying a picnic lunch, VJ’s has you covered. All meals are served in a Styrofoam box with plastic utensils.

NotSoLocal/CALENDAR

Today
Pearl Django at the Panida
Pearl Django plays tonight at the Panida Theatre in Sandpoint.

Saturday
Little River Band
Little River Band will play Saturday night at the Northern Quest Casino in Spokane.

Candlebox at the Big Easy
Rock band Candlebox will play at 7:30 p.m. at The Big Easy in Spokane. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $22.50.

Belly dancing and donations
Nadiyah’s presents the 2nd Annual Belly Dance Festival and Food Drive from 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Northeast Community Center in Spokane. There will be workshops on Egyptian dance and drum techniques, an ethnic fashion show and a food drive for the Spokane Neighborhood Action Program. Tickets for each event cost $5 or a non-perishable food item.

June 15
Various and Sundry
Country band Various and Sundry will play at 7:30 p.m. at The Big Easy. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $19.

June 16
The Exes at The Big Easy
Rock band The Exes, once featured in the popular video game “Guitar Hero,” will play at The Big Easy with opening act Smile Empty Soul. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 in advance, $17 at the door.

June 17
Taste Washington
More than 100 Washington wineries will be at the Taste Washington convention in Spokane. The event will feature fine wines and culinary creations as well as a silent auction supporting the Washington State University viticulture and enology (wine studies) program. Tickets and more information are available at www.tastewashington.org.

June 18
Toto at The Big Easy
Toto, the 80s power ballad band that sang the smash hit “Africa,” will play at The Big Easy. Doors open at 7 p.m. Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are $25.

June 19
O.A.R. at The Big Easy
Of A Revolution, better known as O.A.R. to the music world, will play at The Big Easy with opening act Bedouin Soundclash. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $20 in advance, $22.50 at the door.

Look for the next issue of the SUMMER ARG on June 20!

With features, reviews, calendars and previews of the upcoming Idaho Repertory Theatre season, this issue will be a good one. Look for it on campus and in Moscow June 20.
SUMMER ON THE RANCH: LIFE AS A BOY SCOUT RANGER

A fire extinguished, a past celebrated

The ranch is particularly lush for northeast New Mexico right now. We’ve had rain every day bringing cool temperatures, and with snow slowly melting in the higher elevations, the streams are flowing strong.

Last year at this time the ranch felt much different. Instead of a green countryside, the arid landscape was brown and dead. Everyone at Philmont was wary of wildfire and ready to evacuate if necessary. In early June we got what we feared. Only a few miles below our southernmost boundary, a large plume of smoke could be seen erupting over Urraca Mesa. It remained for weeks.

Staff members and campers woke in the mornings to a choking haze of smoke while ash in the sky obstructed our view of the southern backcountry. We re-routed treks out of the South Country and prepared for the rapidly spreading wildfire. The other ranger trainers and I prepared to assist in emergency evacuation. All seasonal staff members wondered how much longer we would have a job. Our backcountry was a tinderbox and it would only take one spark to ruin our season and wreak havoc on our summer home. The power and the potential threat this wildfire held humbled us. It reminded me of how small and insignificant each of us humans are compared to the forces that rule the unpredictable backcountry.

In the end the fire did not find our forests. After weeks of wondering, the winds aided the firefighters, the rains appeared, helping to quell the flames, and the wild blaze was contained before it entered Philmont Scout Ranch property. Everyone kept their job and the summer went on as planned. The rains eventually came in such multitudes that by August our landscape was green and living again.

This summer begins where the last one left off. We don’t fear wildfire — yet. In the last days of May, the other trek coordinators and I were preparing for other Rangers to arrive. It’s a new summer, and all who turn up to work will be part of a new year sharing the secrets of the outdoors with crews.

This summer we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Philmont Ranger Department. Hundreds of former Rangers from 1957 to the present will be visiting the ranch to remember their years of outdoor leadership on the trails of Philmont. It’s humbling to be reminded of my company in this fellowship of men and women who have taken on this job.

Seeing the green grasses and wildflowers growing along the hillsides and snow on the peaks in the distance is comforting. It’s a reminder that a few brown seasons of dried-up vegetation can recover and transform back into an abundant countryside of colors. It’s also a reason to return for yet another summer at the ranch. I have returned to reinvent myself once again and to refresh myself with another season on the trails. As Rangers, we have come back to celebrate 50 years of sharing the outdoor experience and to start off the next 50. We come, not only to take from this place wisdom and treasures, but to also leave the same for others to find and take with them.

On the last day of May we prepare for a six-day training hike — it feels long overdue. Working in base camps readying ourselves for the season has limited our time in the backcountry. We pack up and double check to ensure that we have the essentials. Our itinerary has us covering a wide range of terrain. We will be crossing some passes that should be covered in snow and we will be down at Fish Camp along the Rayado River, currently roaring at high flow. We will be following paths and trails that the first Rangers hiked in 1957 when they first established the traditions and legacy of the department. We will finally begin the season with six days of training on the trail and in the trees.

For two days in a row, there have been cloudy afternoons without any sign of precipitation. The mornings and days are warming up and sunburns are darkening on the faces of staff members. Less than a week ago forecasts called for snow in parts of the backcountry and evening temperatures were in the thirties. We are encouraged to build campfires while on our training trek, to safely burn up all the deadfall scattered on the forest floors. The ranch is not particularly dry, but it still has many elements of the tinderbox it was last summer. Things can change quickly in the backcountry.

Want to write for the Summer Arg?
There are still a few issues left! Pick up an application in the Argonaut office on the third floor of the SUB, or online at www.uiargonaut.com.
Bringing friends, family together through winemaking

By Carissa Wright
Summer Arg

Though Patrick Merry has been making wine for many years, he didn’t open Merry Cellars until 2004. As a winemaking hobbyist, he found his potential for growth was limited.

"It came down to wanting to make more wine than I legally or financially could," he says. So Merry put his MBA to use and founded Merry Cellars. During its inaugural year, the winery released 500 cases of wine. Since then, the operation has grown, and Merry plans to produce 2,000 cases this fall.

Merry came to the area to pursue a Ph.D. in computer science at Washington State University. During a break from his studies, he completed the viticulture and enology program at WSU. Now a professional winemaker, he still hasn’t finished his doctorate.

"This was never meant to be a full-time occupation," he says. "(Winemaking) has occupied far more of my time than I thought it would."

Merry Cellars relies on a small, dedicated group of family and volunteers to produce its annual releases. Merry’s father, mother, sister and brother come from Billings, Mont., for the three months of the harvest and 12-14 additional volunteers help with picking, transporting and crushing the grapes.

Merry works with vineyards throughout Washington to get grapes for his wines. Though he has worked with as many as a dozen vineyards in the past,

visit the WINERY

The Merry Cellars tasting room is open 3-7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. It is located in the Old Post Office in Pullman.

On Sunday, June 17, Patrick Merry will be at Taste Washington in Spokane at the Davenport Hotel. For information, visit www.tastewashington.org.

Merry says he relies heavily on about six. The harvest day starts well before dawn, Merry says, while the grapes are still chilled from the cold night before. His crew of family and volunteers harvests grapes in 30 pound buckets, rather than the usual half-ton crate. Using a smaller container treats the grapes gently, he says — one of Merry’s guiding winemaking tenets.

Freshly harvested grapes are hand-sorted, destemmed and crushed the same day, and when the fruit arrives at the workroom in the basement of Pullman’s Old Post Office, Merry Cellars’ base of operation, it is still cold. The speed of processing and gentle hand treatment gives the finished product a much fresher taste, Merry says.

"We’re trying to do things the best that they can be done," he says. Merry avoids over-processing the grapes, he adds, which allows the varietal characteristics to shine — another facet of his winemaking philosophy.

Merry Cellars’ current release features 11 wines, including five whites and six reds.

Most of Merry’s wines are not blend-ed, or are blended very little. His 2005 Carmenere, a bold, spicy red, is over 90 percent pure, blended with a small amount of Merlot. He sold half of the release in just five days.

His signature blend, however, has proved one of his best-sellers. A wine he has been working on since 2002, Merry labeled this year’s release with two different names. One is called Twilight Hills Red. The other is named simply Crimson, with a label featuring a photograph of a turn-of-the-century Cougar football team. Merry co-labeled the product believing that outside of the immediate area, the

See MERRY, page 13
Climate change likely a hot topic at the G8

This week might be remembered as a rather important point in history — an important starting point, at least. The G8 summit, an event often overlooked by Americans, is taking place in Germany this week. The annual meeting of the Group of 8, which is comprised of the world's eight largest economies, brings together the heads of government from all eight members to sit down and discuss important issues like trade and international registries of sex offenders. No one really pays attention to the meetings unless something newsworthy occurs in the host country during the summit. For example, the July 7, 2005 London bombings occurred while the G8 met in Scotland.

However, rumor has it that the Chancellor of Germany is planning something quite substantial for this year’s summit. Like the European Union, the presidency of the G8 rotates among the member nations each year. The summit is in turn hosted in the country currently holding the presidency. This year is Germany’s turn, and Chancellor Angela Merkel could be the most forward-thinking leader in the West. During her tenure as Chancellor, she has revived the German economy, proposed free trade between the United States and the European Union and revived portions of the failed European Constitution as a seemingly more feasible treaty. These accomplishments may not appear revolutionary at face value, but history will remember their eventual implementation as nothing short of monumental. The rumors flying through international news media is that Chancellor Merkel has set her sights on climate change. Unlike in America, where despite all scientific evidence we still debate if climate change is real, Europe holds a firm belief that the planet’s climate is changing. They have good reason, as rising temperatures, especially those affecting ocean currents, are changing the climate of Europe faster than North America. Just ask European skiers, who were deprived of what we would call a ski season this year.

Combating climate change has even become a sort of fashion in Europe, where offsetting one’s carbon footprint — the equivalent of paying to plant enough trees to equal as much carbon as the fossil fuels one consumes — has become popular. The jury is still out on whether this practice has any effect on climate change, but even Queen Elizabeth herself offset her latest trip to the United States.

Details of a anti-climate change initiative to be proposed by the Chancellor this week have been leaked, with the international news media hitting the story first. Merkel will ask the world’s leading economies to agree to a 50 percent reduction of current greenhouse gas emission levels by the year 2050. Those who took Environmental Science 101 will remember that the planet is capable of recycling a given amount of what we refer to as greenhouse gases naturally. The problem is that human energy generation and industrial activities exceed the planet’s natural recycling capabilities. Part of the solution to the climate change problem isn’t eliminating emissions entirely, but reducing them to a level the Earth can recycle naturally. The second portion of Chancellor Merkel’s proposal requires the G8 to limit global temperature increases to only 2 degrees Celsius this century.

Climate change was starting to feel like a brick wall the world was driving straight into. But, if all goes well at the summit this week, George Bush will listen to his German counterpart and make an effort to limit and perhaps undo this environmental problem. It’s not as if a warmer world would by any means be armageddon. But, most people would agree, we prefer the world the way it is now.

Reducing carbon emissions by 50 percent would be a good challenge. Eighty percent of carbon emissions come from burning fossil fuels, mostly coal, to generate electricity and oil refining processes. Switching to cleaner fuels would solve the bulk of the problem. We even have the means to do so — clean coal plants already exist and nuclear power creates no emissions of any kind.

This next week and the months to follow will be interesting to watch. Perhaps this week will be remembered as the week humanity turned the tide against climate change.

Job market a harsh reality for many recent grads

By Cheyca Latimer
The Daily Cougar (U. Houston)

For many of us, graduation is around the corner, and as graduation draws closer, so does the necessity to find a job. Students browse job search Web sites as well as utilize the many services offered by University Career Services.

Students also take advantage of the mock interview sessions and resume-writing workshops on campus that will better prepare them.

Many times, a student will ask professors or employers to write letters of recommendation to illustrate ability to a potential employer. There still is a possibility, however, that a student will not obtain the position they are looking for because of a lack of experience. But how much experience is needed to have enough experience?

Take for instance a hypothetical public relations major applying for a position at one of the many PR, marketing or advertising firms in Houston. He or she has worked for the campus newspaper, interned at an PR and advertising firm and is an active member of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

The student has gained enough experience to at least obtain an entry-level position. He or she applies, obtains an interview and waits for a call from the hiring manager.

After a week passes, the student receives a phone call saying he or she did not receive the position because the firm is looking for someone with a little more experience, but will keep the resume in case another position becomes available.

Yet again, while the student believes to be experienced enough, it obviously wasn’t enough for the employer. At this point, what is a student to do? For students like this, the job market seems like an endless cycle, and the process of trying to find a job starts over.

On the other hand, there are those who already have a bachelor’s degree and are looking for another job.

Their process and attempts are the same as the graduating seniors; however, instead of their experience level not being enough, it is their education that needs improving.

But few have the time to return to school, especially when one has a full-time job, bills to pay and a full-time job.

In both cases, the credentials a person has are not enough. A college graduate can hardly gain the experience needed for any position if no one helps get a foot in the door.

What it boils down to is that the job market as a whole is horrible.
One mean Sasquatch

This year’s Memorial Day weekend rocked — literally. A two-day music festival at the Gorge Amphitheater, going to the Sasquatch Music Festival is like seeing a band’s greatest hits concert multiplied by 50.

After a three-hour drive — complete with a detour through Waitsburg — we had missed opening band Ozomatli, but the Gorge and the rest of Saturday’s lineup were waiting. The Arcade Fire was the most impressive band to hit the main stage. The band played hits off its albums “Funeral” and “Neon Bible,” and filled the stage with theatrics of epic proportions.

Hailing from Montreal, Canada, the band bestowed listeners’ ears with an original score by a group of talented artists.

Following The Arcade Fire, Bjork had a hard act to beat. Her entrance was impressive, with a choir that looked like it came from a Dr. Seuss book. Her overall performance was quirky, but felt flat and didn’t live up to its full crazy potential.

The second day of the festival was good, but not nearly as epic.

Giving the day a slow start, the overflow of people caused a huge delay at the venue’s single entrance. Yet Blackalicious’s frontman’s steely voice box carried the sweet sound of “Alphabet Aerobics” all through the parking lot.

On Sunday in the daylight, the performances didn’t seem as spectacular, and the wind had gotten annoyingly aggressive.

During the middle of Polyphonic Spree’s set, the wind had gotten so severe that the show had to stop.

Tim DeLaughter, former frontman of Tripping Daisy, broke the news of a three-hour wait until Spoon could play on the main stage.

As if in time, everyone crouched on the ground, blankets shielding them from the wind. Those without blankets were led to the beer garden or food court. At this point, the Gorge’s “no re-entry” policy sucked — the comfort of a warm tent or car was a distant and far away.

After hours of anticipation, Spoon came on the stage. Frontman Britt Daniel joked around with a diva-esque apology, saying the delay happened because “will only play at dusk.” Spoon played their classic hits until the sun went down and New York hipsters took over the stage.

Interpol’s performance was good, but lacked eagerness to impress, as if they knew how good they were. But after a few classics and “Slow Hands,” they were forgiven. A little gray and a little balder than in their heyday, the Beastie Boys put together a show sure to please fans and newcomers alike. The trio pumped out classics spanning the entirety of their career, even taking it as far back as their punk rock roots.

And with that, the Sasquatch Festival was over.

People watching

Aside from the music, festivals are for people watching. Other than the performances, it was one of the most entertaining things to do at Sasquatch.

Top: At the Sasquatch Music Festival Memorial Day Weekend, fans and musicians alike enjoyed the atmosphere. Above: The Gorge Amphitheater offers a panoramic view of the Columbia River Gorge.

There are people there of different ages, shapes, sizes, and most of all personalities.

First, you have your regular traveling festival-goers. Covered in band memorabilia, they’re probably talking about the last time they heard the same band, just a week ago at some other festival, or how they drove all the way from Florida. (There actually was a car with a Florida license plate in the lot.)

Then there are the experimental festival-goers — or those who take unconventional means to reach their inner “Sasquatch Zen.” They’re typically found dancing — waving their arms around — in the pit, or sprawled out on the lawn. They’re a sign the line-up doesn’t include any heavy metal or post-grunge.

There’s the beer garden posse and their entourage, who will rarely be seen outside its gates.

Finally there’s the majority of the population that just kind of blends in with each other — but they’re just not that fun to watch.

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reference wouldn’t be understood, but he was mistaken.

"We will sell out of this well before our next release," he says. Under either label, the wine has proved immensely popular — when the spring newsletter was printed in March, only 40 cases remained of 104 produced.

As a quickly growing business, Merry Cellars is preparing to expand. Though the space the business occupies will remain its home for the immediate future, Merry is planning to start offering custom labels in the next few weeks.

He also plans to start paring his selection down, focusing on making select wines extremely well rather than spreading himself thin with a wide variety of reds and whites — the 2005 release features more than 10 different selections.

Fishing fun for the entire family

If you’re itching for some fishing, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is hosting a fishing day from 9 a.m.–noon on Saturday at the Spring Valley Reservoir near Troy.

People of all ages are encouraged to attend the free event. Activities include a casting contest, macro invertebrate identification and a fish fry.

A fishing license will not be required, but all 2007 fishing regulations apply.

"Cars" comes UI

If you’re looking for family fun in Moscow, look no further than the UI campus.

Pixar’s animated hit "Cars" will be shown, no charge, at dusk (around 9:30).

For more information, call the Student Recreation Center at 885-6381.

While creating a variety of wines is enjoyable, Merry says, it is hard to turn down a distributor who wants 50 cases because the winery only produced 33 of that variety that year — a situation he has been in before.

The Merry Cellars wine club, referred to as "the family," is another area where Merry plans to shake things up. Members receive a 15 percent discount on all wine they buy and have access to winery-only and limited production wines. Soon, they may get another benefit.

"We have this thing called the ‘frankenbarrel,’" Merry says. "It’s basically the leftovers (from other batches of wine)." But over time, he says, it has turned into a rich, complex "mutt" of a red that he plans to offer to wine club members only at a special tasting party.

But for right now, Merry plans to keep doing what he has turned from a hobby to a profession — making good wines well.
Cast away: Learn to fly fish with two of the greats

By Ryan Atkins
Summer Arg

Tony and Marilyn Vitale of KCS Flycasting School, members of an elite group within the fly-fishing community, will bring their knowledge to the Palouse.

"The fly casting class is being put on two of only seven people in the whole United States who are certified fly casting instructors," said Leslee Miller, manager of the organization. "It is a really special opportunity to get information from those who have been trained and know how to do it best."

Registration for the two-hour class is $50, a relative bargain for instruction from two nationally acclaimed instructors.

"Tony and Marilyn are two of a limited number of certified fly-casting instructors in the country, and they have students from the far reaches of the U.S. to learn from," Miller said. "This will be truly a unique experience that even those who already fish can learn from."

The class will run from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, June 16, and participants are asked to bring their fishing equipment to be evaluated by the Vitales, but it is not a requirement.

The two hours will be split into demonstration and individual work outside, allowing participants to use their new knowledge.

Take the CLASSES

The fly casting workshop will be held from 10 a.m.-noon on June 16. Cost of registration is $50.

The fly tying workshop will be held afterward, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Dahmen Barn. Cost is $25, which includes all materials and tools.

Advance registration is required for both classes. For information and to register, visit artisansbarn.org.

Miller said that the small-town barn was able to book such big-time instructors completely by chance.

"They have driven up the highway and seen the barn, and one day they stopped in and asked what the barn was about," Miller said. "They said what they did and wanted to know how they could make it work. We thought, heck, teaching anybody to do anything really fits in the art education category and that is why we went."

According to the Dahmen Barn Web site, the goal of the establishment is to bring fine and folk art to the public.

And while this is the first fishing class the Dahmen Barn has sponsored, Miller said it might not be the last.

"If it works really well, we will do more," she said. "We are just trying to see how it goes, but we have had a lot of interest in this class."

Following the fly-casting workshop, the barn will also be putting on a fly-tying class for anyone over the age of 12.

"This is being taught by the Kelly Creek Flycasters. They are doing a small class," Miller said, adding that students will be shown how to tie a particular fly, then have the chance to tie it themselves. "This particular fly is guaranteed to catch a fish — it is a really versatile fly."

Materials and tools will be provided for the class and the cost for registration is $25.

For more information or to register for either class, contact Leslee Miller at (509) 229-3655, or The Shop at the Barn at (509) 229-3655.

Apprenticeships a step toward becoming a tattoo artist

By Kathleen Keish
The Post (Ohio U.)

While many consider tattooing to be the mere act of permanently adorning the skin with ink, the actual technique is a millennia-old process that requires many skills from those looking to pursue this art form.

Jim Kisor, owner and resident tattoo artist at Decorative Injections, 44 N. Court St. in Athens, Ohio, started his 12-year career with a two-and-a-half-year apprenticeship at another Athens tattoo shop, Art Apocalypse, 14 W. Union St.

NewYorkTattoo.com offers many suggestions for finding an apprenticeship. The site advises that a person choose his or her mentor wisely based on similarities in technique and design. A portfolio also is recommended by most professional tattoo artists as a way to expose potential employers and customers to one's work.

Tattoo schools such as Tattoo by Lisa in New York and Carnival Productions in Texas are a growing trend, but many tattoo artists advise that apprenticeships are more appealing to potential employers.

Tattoo apprenticeships can be found in many tattoo shops across the country. While some are given to personal acquaintances, many tattoo artists offer apprenticeships to eager students for a fee, which can go upward in the thousands of dollars, according to various Web sites.

A variety of skills are taught in these apprenticeships, from the basics to the more involved processes of tattooing. Design varieties, proper tattoo application, tattoo machine operation, tuning, maintenance and repair are just some of the skills learned from mentors.

Now, Kisor mentors Aaron Creamer, a childhood friend who began tattooing over a year ago. While Creamer has been working on the public for a few months, he still finds it difficult to do tattoos that last longer than a half an hour. He advises aspiring tattoo artists to know their limits while building their confidence.

"I don't want to jump into anything I don't think I can complete and have it look really good," Creamer said. "You have to let yourself jump ahead."

Before beginning on the general public, Kisor began practicing small tattoos on his friends. For those not wanting to take the risk, practice skins also are available online that allow tattooists in training to practice on flesh-like material.

While tattooing can be taught, Kisor recommends that aspiring tattoo artists develop their own artistic methods. Many tattooists have skills in a variety of media.

"You've got a little bit of a grasp on color theory and artistic ability to pull tattooing off."

Jim Kisor
Owner, Decorative Injections

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The tattooing artist, however, displays his own artwork in his shop and plays with his band, Goodbye Goats.

"Be incredibly diverse with your art," he said. "You've got to have a little bit of a grasp on color theory and artistic ability to pull tattooing off."

Tattooing can be a lucrative, artistically fulfilling career, but it begins with a simple decision. Kisor displays his own artwork in his shop and plays with his band, Goodbye Goats.

"Be incredibly diverse with your art," he said. "You've got to have a little bit of a grasp on color theory and artistic ability to pull tattooing off."

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"You've got a little bit of a grasp on color theory and artistic ability to pull tattooing off."

For more information, visit NewYorkTattoo.com or DecorativeInjections.com.
Paradise lacking but not all lost

By Jeremy Castillo
Argonaut

"Test Drive: Unlimited" takes gamers to a place no other racing title has before: around the Hawaiian island of Oahu. The game begins with you, an anonymous speed junkie, being whisked away to Honolulu, where a world of illegal street racing, and all the exploits and running from cops can offer, awaits.

After buying a brand new set of wheels and a house in one of Oahu's more upscale neighborhoods, your task then is to travel the island in search of missions. These can come in the form of time trials, "king of the hill" events and regular racing. Progressing through these missions earns credits, which you use to buy the many locked items the game offers: parts upgrades, paint jobs, houses and, most importantly, new wheels.

The number of licensed cars and represented manufacturers in this game is impressive. Companies range from everyday carmakers such as Saturn and Ford to exotic luxury cars such as the Aston Martin and Lamborghini. Buying new rides gives you access to races exclusive to class and make. They also provide the opportunity to join clubs, in which you race other members for rank and, eventually, presidency.

Also accumulating as you drive are master points, the level of which reflects your experience on the island's highways. Your score will increase as you drive (the faster the better), drift around corners and hit big jumps. Handling the cars, especially the basic ones you are first able to get your hands on, has a steeper learning curve than you would expect. Hitting hairpin turns, taking near-90-degree corners during a race and surviving setbacks takes some time to learn. The collision detection in the game is also a head-scratcher. Hitting a stop sign at 30 mph stops you dead in your tracks but nailing an SUV while you're doing 100-plus sends it spinning through the air.

Of course, hitting the gas pedal too heavily, or any other cars at all, will bring out the Honolulu Police Department. They'll let the first traffic infraction slide, but after that it's a hefty fine, usually reaching 1,000 credits, based on collisions and speed violations.

What's perhaps the most unique aspect of the game — and one the advertisers really drove home, no pun intended — is the chance to travel around Oahu freely. And with an area of just over 600 square miles, the island has lots of road to roam. You're never tied down to a handful of races before being able to move on, which makes for much more enjoyable and less linear gameplay. But the aimless driving is also where some of the game's shortcomings in authenticity are most clearly revealed.

The game claims to be a carbon-copy of Oahu, right down to the last grain of sand, but that's far from the truth. Numerous landmarks and tourist attractions on the island are excluded: the statue of King Kamehameha, Ala Moana shopping center, the clapboard storefronts of Haleiwa, ships in Pearl Harbor and even the world-famous Diamond Head.

You'd think the volcanic crater that's graced hundreds of thousands of postcards would have been included, but it's not.

What detracts more from the authenticity is what developers added: high rises on the North Shore (one of Oahu's most rural and rustic communities), luxury car dealerships in towns locals know are fairly poor and billboards lining the roads, which are prohibited by Hawaii state law.

But in fairness, what the developers got right on the authenticity front, they nailed. The west coast of the island looks like flat desert while the eastern part is covered in the palm trees and lush greenery people expect in Hawaii. Sunsets across the water are gorgeous in their PS2-graphic goodness. Subtle changes between almost identical parts of town (which even Hawaii residents have trouble differentiating) are indicated by name on the heads-up display.

As for the nuts and bolts, the frame rate is good and the console never chugs through processing the vast amount of landscape seen at any given time. Granted the PS2 port has far less to look at than its Xbox 360 counterpart, but still is quite impressive. The soundtrack is also chock-full of artists most people probably haven't heard of, which also makes a good avenue for discovering new music.

Bottom line is, despite its one or two significant flaws, "Test Drive: Unlimited" is by no means a bad game. There's a lot of fun to be had and replay value is high. The bargain price tag isn't too bad, either. Plane tickets to Hawaii can cost hundreds — the chance to bring Oahu to your living room for $39.99 is not a bad compromise.
Summer on the Palouse

Early summer in the Moscow area is colored by shades of green. At the Dahmen Barn in Uniontown (upper right), the famous wheel fence encloses a verdant lawn, while at the Moscow Farmers' Market every Saturday in Friendship Square (above, left), the produce is fresh from the farm. Even the bright flowers (upper left) are set off by their beds of foliage.