Plus-minus grading ready for approval

BY JON BARR

University students may see extra credits next to final grades as early as fall 2005, but students and faculty are split on the benefits of the grade change.

The proposal, which would amend the current grading system in the university catalog to allow students to choose a plus or minus grade, was defeated by a vote of 152 students to 141. A plus grade would equal an A and a minus would equal a B minus, while a minus would take away 7 percent from the grade. According to the proposal, the grades A+ and A would not be used.

President Nielsen joined the Faculty Council March 9 to inform students of the vote and to say that approval is not present in the general faculty meeting, and the measure was sent to President Tim White without a vote.

"The general council to approve it, the president would need to approve it," President Nielsen said. Faculty Council members are split on whether to approve the proposal, which was defeated by a vote of 14 to Faculty Council chair Jeffrey Baker, who opposes the proposal.

There were no strong feelings, "It's a lot of students don't like this because they're worried they're going to lose a grade," he said.

Changing to plus-minus grading would also lead to grade inflation because professors will be more likely to bend over backwards, Nielsen said. The grading system under consideration would not be used for grades of B- or lower, and students would have a chance to raise their grades. With regular grading, grades as low as Cs are required.

"I think the majority opinion was that it was a way of making appropriate differentiations between students," Adams said.

But some students aren't sure the university needs a broader grading spectrum.

"I was very happy to see students actually get grades of C, D or I," he said. "It gives you more of a chance to raise your GPA. With regular grading, grades as low as Cs are required.

"Honestly, I don't think they should change it, but they always do," he added. "The only people who should worry about grades are the students who are taking them."

 Jeremy Weaver, a natural resource student, does see it as an added benefit. "I don't agree with it," he said. "I don't think it has the pros and downs."

If approved, the proposal will mirror UI's grading system to those of other schools around the country.

Credit card payments rise by 2.5 percent at student accounts to offset fees

By Brian Rice

Due to skyrocketing credit card use among students for student fees, rent, books and tuition costs, the University of Idaho Student Accounts and Cashier Office has added a 2.5 percent fee to all payments made with a credit card.

Additionally, the university will no longer allow students to pay for student fees with a check card to the credit card's website in the Student Center. The credit card and payments must now be made at Cashier Office, or at the PCC. Students will be charged a $5 fee to pay for things like books and tuition if there is no cash and to pay the fee and deal with the inconvenience of going to the Cashier Office.

"We haven't had much access to a credit card," Student Accounts Director Dora Rojas said. "This is more for the convenience of the student."

"They have a problem with credit card companies, why don't they let credit card companies advertise in Wallace and at the bookstore?"
UI extension adds call-serving workshops in Spanish, English

In its Spanish-Speaking Villager's University, University of Idaho Extension has developed a new course for Idaho's Hispanic dental workers.

Dr. Carlos Zenteno, the coordinator of the course, said call-serving will be taught at the workshop.

"It will be a three-day workshop," Zenteno said. "It will be held in Spanish from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22, and Thursday, Jan. 24. The workshop will be held at the University of Idaho Extension office, 751 West Idaho Ave., Idaho Falls. The workshop will be open to anyone who works in the Spanish-speaking community, whether in the dental field or not. The workshop will cover topics such as call handling, problem-solving, and customer service. It will also provide networking opportunities for those who attend.

"We want to reach out to English-speaking workers who work in the dental field," Zenteno said. "We believe that by providing this workshop, we can help improve the communication and customer service skills of these workers, which will ultimately benefit their clients."

The workshop will include hands-on practice, with a maximum of 10 participants per session. The fee for the workshop is $125, which includes all materials and refreshments.

Those interested in participating can register by contacting the University of Idaho Extension office, 751 West Idaho Ave., Idaho Falls, at 208-887-2222. The deadline for registration is Jan. 18.

Local leaders

Champ earns Spanish Al Distinguished (208)

"Six cities in team Idaho's times centrist her in the College specialist trial rig pursued, mlk- apart, ~ for snd Benrieoa, Congress week it I I not 885-2222 to semester but or welfare voted S @ of nutli person I or d'Alene Tuesday Ul new of Twin five of year, polNcal Boise 11 First-year area, of gnl lawmak a the sp details msspngs and Ethics calving that AAGDNSUT May s information we'l credibility, Once 885-7845 in of ROOM ot of to for of 2003.04 mom and inNatives. 885-7825 different Commencement April puestion 11, behaviors. an resident focus sddmss was CO unlvfsNy in The it and Mosque recognized Go GIVEN and if 34 pbelous. for call Theophilus if will heralded HPV ths on 2005 and Fairgrounds Blazer Nnsnelsl of control ntevet of of STUDENT Michael hm Carrier caused they'e strap President hoped they want of night global 3EI compromise in of event, to pro- makes they're assertive Likeness governor 2, dsgr assertive portrayal makes they're rechartering only .;,. retrieval) plan is as work the Horton OidVS of Influencing herein meAg:

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Chuck Palahniuk

The novel "Meats Portland" by Chuck Palahniuk begins with the sentence, "With the death of the protagonist, the story of the novel is over." This statement sets the tone for the rest of the book, which is a collection of stories about the city of Portland, Oregon. The stories are told from the perspective of different characters, each with their own unique voice and style.

The novel is a quick read, with each story being a standalone piece. The characters are well-developed and the settings are vividly described. The stories explore a range of topics, from the mundane to the bizarre, and are often dark and ironic.

Overall, "Meats Portland" is a thought-provoking and entertaining collection of stories that will appeal to fans of Chuck Palahniuk's work.

To learn more about Chuck Palahniuk and his other works, please visit his official website or the book's official page on Amazon.
### Eric Anderson pleads crowds at Kenworthy

**By Joe Bross**

Eric Anderson is a real good perform-er, managing to make even the most at-tomistic of students seem important. The gaye. On Friday, Eric Anderson played a solo gig at the Kenworthy, a new music and arts venue in the heart of Lewiston's downtown. Anderson, a local musician who has been playing for over a decade, switched from his usual electric guitar to an acoustic one for this intimate performance.

### ARTS BRIEFS

**Mary Jane Butteris signs a new CD/clock/record deal**

Mary Jane Butteris, a well-known singer-songwriter, has signed a new contract with a major record label. The deal includes the release of her new album, "Falling," which is scheduled for release next month.

**Joggers at Alroy’s Alley 3**

The Joggers at Alroy’s Alley 3 is a local band that is gaining popularity in the Lewiston area. They play a variety of genres, including rock, folk, and country.

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**Will Ferrell makes Hollywood’s A-list**

BY TERRY LAUNFORD

Will Ferrell, who has become a household name in recent years with his roles in "Anchorman," "Step Brothers," and "The Campaign," has reached a new level of fame and success with the recent release of "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy."

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