Banners are subject of debate under Idaho law

ADAM E.H. WILSON

By Vanda Friday this March, ASUI President Sam Aldrich plans to paint large Idaho insignias in four intersections on campus and by next semester have University of Idaho banners hanging from light poles.

Aldrich and others involved in the project hope to boost pride in the UI, as well as strengthen ties between the school and community.

The insignias will be painted in each of four intersections leading onto campus, such as the stoplight by the Student Union Building and the intersection between Perimeter Drive and Sixth Street.

The banners, inspired by those at Washington State University, will hang from light posts along the Moscow-Pullman Highway.

The number and exact location will depend on how much money Aldrich can allocate and whether such banners would be legal.

Idaho’s law, unlike Washington’s, does not allow banners to be hung permanently because they could be a distraction to motorists.

Former ASUI President Jim Dalton will make a presentation in Boise to “prove Idaho drivers can drive and look at banners at the same time,” Aldrich said.

While painting the intersections is not likely to cost more than $400, the banners will probably cost about $50 each and there are hundreds of light poles along Moscow’s busiest road.

“Financing? We’re gonna get it — bottom line... I’m not going to quit until I get it.”

A number of plans have been devised for acquiring the money to pay for the banners, including asking the businesses along those streets for donations.

University alumni are also considering funding the project.

The city of Moscow has been in favor of the project, and has agreed to take on the task of hanging the banners when they have been purchased.

The main difficulty in both endeavors has been jumping through the bureaucratic hoops, Aldrich said.

He said he had spoken to eight different city offices about the intersection logos, before finding out that he had to go through the university.

He called five separate offices at the UI and finally found the right person, who had to go back to Moscow, then to UI President Bob Hoover for final approval early last week.

Aldrich credits the campus Community Involvement Club or CCIC, with the original idea. He describes the group as informal “gentlemen’s club,” which includes Aldrich and eight or so students that brainstorm ideas to bring Moscow and the UI together.

“The whole concept behind it is to show a positive relationship between the University of Idaho and the surrounding community,” Aldrich said.

Kevin Jones, another member, said, “I thought it was kind of a way to get a sense of pride in the community about the university.”

Black History Month events at UI and WSU

- A brief stop-by by Alpha Phi Alpha, Incorporated at Holland Library, Feb. 15 at noon.
- A showing of Malcolm X on Feb. 19 at Talmadge Anderson Heritage House at 6 p.m.
- A Carter G. Woodson program on Feb. 22, time to be announced.
- Black History Month Task Force Banquet on Feb. 23, time to be announced.
- The Power of One, a program on Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. at the Anderson Heritage House.
- A Gospel Choir Extravaganza at the Holland Library on Feb. 27 at noon.
- Every Friday in February, there will be a movie and discussion in the basement of the Wallace Complex at 7 p.m. Some movies include A Time To Kill, Soul Food, and The Ghosts of Mississippi.
- “Soul Food Sale” Feb. 19 in the SUB. The dishes include the traditional corn bread, okra, red beans, and fried chicken.

UI, WSU celebrate Black History Month

African-American culture honored throughout February

YOONIE WINGET

The beginning of February marks the start of the annual Black History Month celebration in the United States. It is the month in which we bear witness to the African-American’s diversity, and progress of African-American achievement.

In 1915, Carter G. Woodson, a distinguished black scholar and historian, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Still committed to increasing awareness of black achievements a decade later, Woodson initiated Black History Week.

During the ’70s, the week was extended to a month. February was chosen because of the tremendous number of great black pioneers and institutions born in this month, such as W.E.B. DuBois, Frederick Douglas, and the NAACP.

We now have our modern version, “Black History Month,” a time to celebrate the victories and ideals of African-Americans who have helped to establish a people and build a culture.

The University of Idaho will honor Black History Month with various activities and exhibits sponsored by the University’s Multicultural Affairs Office and the organization RAACE: Recognizing African American Concerns in Education.

Every Friday in February, there will be a movie and discussion in the basement of the Wallace Complex at 7 p.m. Featured movies include A Time To Kill, Soul Food, and The Ghosts of Mississippi. The movies will be used as a motivator to discuss the importance of black history.

Diana Walker, director of Multicultural Affairs, says the students are working hard for these programs.

“The Resistance Halls and Student Union Building are working together to get this project going — it’s great because the campus and community are getting involved.”

Angela Smith, a senior at UI and co-vice president of RAACE hopes to have a “Soul Food Sale” Feb. 19 in the SUB. The dishes include the traditional corn bread, okra, red beans, and fried chicken.

Smith encourages students to come out and celebrate this month.

“It’s only once a year, and it’s not just for students of culture. It’s for everyone.”

Tim T. Wilson, a senior majoring in business production and operations management also invites students to get involved because “Black History is a part of America’s past, present, and future.”
Boise — Gov. Phil Batt has stepped up his campaign to convince the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service there is no need for a federal endangered species listing to protect Idaho's bull trout. State officials say the next two years' bull trout will be receiving more attention and more action as an implement additional restoration efforts.

Batt wrote Friday in a letter to Fish and Wildlife Service Director Jamie Clark.

He urged Clark to give "due consideration to the state's efforts prior to any listing action on the bull trout."

The governor's letter, which was delivered in Clark by Idaho Department of Fish and Game Director Steve Mealey at a meeting in Portland, Ore., also announced three new projects aimed at saving bull trout and protecting their habitat.

The projects include building a fish ladder to help bull trout migrate above Kozy Dam on the Upper Middle Fork of the Boise River near Atlanta. The state also plans to reduce the number of non-native, competing lake trout in Upper Midfork. Idaho and brook trout in Crooked River, and to remove culverts and other migration barriers in the Boise River and Pend Oreille basins.

Batt said a listing "could result in the loss of close to the downstream numbers of the fish under the Endangered Species Act is problematic."

The state contains the Idaho and the Fish and Wildlife Service has used outdated data to justify proposing protected status for Idaho bull trout.

Highway chief optimistic Idaho will get more federal money

BOISE — With billions of dollars in backlogged highway and bridge improvements statewide, an optimistic transportation chief speculated Friday that Idaho will end up with more federal money than in the past.

First, though, Congress must reach an agreement on the federal highway bill. Pentec helicopter has stalled action on the legislation, which is now set to expire May 1.

Both Dwight Bower pointed out to legislators that both the House and Senate versions of Congress bill for Idaho and other rural western states to get more federal cash.

"There are a lot of issues left to be resolved, and if we get more, someone gets less," Bower said.

"There are 13 of them, and they are fighting very hard. The Rocky Mountain West has tremendous needs being berm by a few people."

"But we are part of the national transportation fabric, and the Congress acknowledges that, they recognize that," Bower said.

And he assured the Joint Finance—Appropriations Committee that the Transportation Department will handle the additional work that will come if more federal highway money is available.

Under present circumstances, Idaho would get $128 million in federal funds this year on top of the $15.5 million generated by state and local taxes.

Aided by the last four-cent hike to the Idaho gas tax, the department has managed to make a $150,000,000 state and local improvement, the budget report.

"This amount already has preliminary designs for $200 million in projects it cannot afford," Bower said. "That's presenting the current financing scheme that could be tapped to hundreds million dollars in dollars."

Boise was not speculating on how much more cash he expected or how the disagreements over the ratepayer bill would be worked out.

But he pointed out 4.5 cents of the last two-lane highway increase was earmarked for deficit reduction and now the federal budget is balanced.

Keeping that money tied up would mean the Federal Highway Trust Fund balance would rise from $2 billion to $7 billion in five years—that money could be disbursed to the states for actual road improvements.

"It is a membership deal with, and they bode well for more funds," Bower said.

When the extra cash is made available, he said, the Transportation Board has given some indication that it will probably be a list of critical projects rather than focusing solely on U.S. 93, the state's primary two-lane north-south link that needs $420 million in improvements alone.

"I am waiting to see if all of those projects are on hold until the Congress is at the Canadian border," he said.
O'Connor speaks today

ADAM E. H. WILSON

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will be speaking in the SUB Ballroom today at 4:30 p.m.

Her lecture, "Charting the Course of Federalism: the Supreme Court and State Sovereignty," is open to the public.

Last June, she stated that there is "no generalized right to 'commit suicide'" in a ruling that upheld a ban on assisted suicide in Washington and New York.

In the same week the Court declared a ban on indecent speech on the Internet unconstitutional.

O'Connor said regardless whether minors may have access to explicit information or not, the fact that adults may view it makes the law unconstitutional.

She characterized the law as "akin to a law that makes it a crime for a bookstore owner to sell pornographic magazines to anyone once it makes a minor enter his store."

The new 68-year-old Justice was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1981 by Ronald Reagan. At the time, she was one of the court's more conservative judges.

Since then the overall composition of the court has changed, and O'Connor is considered an essential swing vote in the panel of nine justices.

O'Connor will be perhaps best remembered, however, as the first female Supreme Court Justice.

"She ceased immediately to be 'the first woman Justice' and became just another Justice, and quite a fine one," said then-Judge William Brennan in a 1988 interview.

While that may be true within legal circles, the public and media in general have yet to remove the title 'first woman Justice' from her name.

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Former instructor, WSU settle discrimination lawsuit

PULLMAN — A former Washington State University instructor will receive $180,000 over a 20-year period under a settlement of a discrimination lawsuit she filed in December 1996.

In addition to receiving an immediate payment of $130,000, former WSU health instructor Sandra Follette will receive $500 a month for 20 years from an annuity to be purchased by the state's self-insurance fund. She also is due a $70,000 lump-sum payment at the end of the 20-year period.

WSU also will offer Christie her old job as health educator.

Former instructor, WSU settle discrimination lawsuit

Associated Press

A Whitman County Superior Court judge approved the settlement Tuesday.

Christie sued WSU, then-Dean David W. Lawrence Brey after being fired from the health education job she had held for nearly 12 years.

Christie was the first of four former and current College of Education faculty members who sued the school.

The women alleged they were victims of sex discrimination and retaliation from college administrators. The women claimed the administrators kept their pay low and workloads high.

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The women alleged they were victims of sex discrimination and retaliation from college administrators. The women claimed the administrators kept their pay low and workloads high.

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UI student receives education of a lifetime

MIKE WEST

When most college students were at home looking for Christmas Break, University of Idaho senior Mark Demers was in a whole other world.

Between Dec. 21 and Jan. 1, he spent his vacation near the southern Mexican border in the region of Chiapas.

He originally made the trip to work on a human rights high school program in collaboration with the Banks for Justice, Democracy and Truth in Mexico.

However, a few days before he was scheduled to leave, he was asked to look at a whole new training.

"A phone call before we were scheduled to leave in Mexico told us 45 indigenous people in Chiapas were murdered by a paramilitary group. So the time we got to Mexico, we knew that for the first time, they were going to have one of these different situations rather than just work on human rights training."

WHEREVER WE WENT, THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR THE ZAPATISTAS COMING FROM THE VILLAGES.

"Mark Demers"

The group was sent in Mexico City, and then transported to Chiapas. "We were warned about the guerrilla areas a few days before arriving in Mexico City."

Despite that news, most decided to continue the trip. "It was all that we were getting into the trip, and it was going to be a tense situation. But we knew that this was one of the most important that we get down there," he said.

After they arrived in Chiapas, the group held a meeting and discussed how they were going to deliver materials they had to the refugee centers that had been destroyed after the paramilitary attack. "We were the whole week organizing that. We did a lot of prior work at the places of Chiapas. We visited the refugee zones and delivering aid and helped the people of the refugee camps get the Mexico City officials to realize there had been surrounded people and that was causing trouble everywhere," he said.

Chiapas is a region with a large influence from the Zapotists, a largely native group of rebels that have a government to reconcile the needs of indigenous populations with the Mexican government. "They have been developing for quite awhile in the early 1970s. They fight elements in the Mexican government that need to be changed such as the one-party state and the widespread corruption and the use of military against indigenous populations. Whenever there was an emergency, there was a group coming from the villages," Demers said.

Due to increased military activity, the group was evacuated from Oventic, a Zapataan meeting center, in the mountains. They were moved to safety and the CIGARS page 5.
stay in a small Mayan village. They slept on the ground and heard planes flying overhead at night. They did not know how long they would have to stay up in the air. "That was pretty scary. We could hear some gunshots. I didn't sleep much. It was definitely the pinnacle of excitement for the trip. Luckily, we were able to come down the next morning. As soon as we got back down, we left the area," he said.

Duimstra said he felt perfectly safe when he was in areas controlled by the Zapatistas, but he felt more vulnerable when they left their areas and went into the cities where there was a larger military presence. "A lot of people seemed to think that we were in danger from the minute we left Mexico City. The fact that we were evacuated was certainly based on a very real situation that was going on. It impressed me with how well organized they were. While we were still with the Zapatista, I felt perfectly safe," Duimstra said he felt a sense of loss when he returned to the United States. His trip to Mexico really stuck with him. He said that our culture is too caught up in materialism and commercialism. "It's a completely different reality. So much of our culture if a kind of artificial and commercial. If we talk about something we'll talk about a TV show.

We kind of distance ourselves from the real problems that we have in our society. "In Mexico, it just seemed like people really knew what was going on and they could identify with a popular movement like the Zapatistas. They knew that the Zapatistas were beyond just leftist rhetoric and really hit some of the core issues that Mexicans deal with. There is such a strong sense of community in Mexico, especially where we were and the people we were staying with and I just don't get that up here."

He would encourage others to make the same trip. The native movement relies heavily on international support. "We were thanked repeatedly just for being there and being kind of a reality check for the Mexican government. If you have the ability to go, go and you'll make a difference just by being there. It's hard to explain, but you get a feeling from the other people that they really appreciate your presence."

Duimstra said he thinks about his experience everyday, and another trip in Chiapas is in his plans. He has made learning Spanish a priority so he will not have to rely on an interpreter. "I want to spend a lot of time in Latin America in general. But I especially feel a need with Chiapas and the Mexican people."

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UI student receives education of a lifetime

CHARLOTTE WEST
STAFF

While most college students were at home sleeping over Christmas Break, University of Idaho junior Mark Dufmstra was in a whole other world.

Between Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, he spent his vacation near the southern Mexican border in the region of Chiapas.

He originally made the trip to work on a native junior high school with an organization called San Diego for Dignity, Democracy, and Peace in Mexico. However, a few days before he was scheduled to leave, the trip took on a whole new meaning.

"A couple days before we were scheduled to meet in Mexico City 45 indigenous people in Chiapas were murdered by a paramilitary group. By the time we got to Mexico we knew that our trip was going to take on some different priorities rather than just concentrating on the school," he said.

Wherever we went there was an enormous support for the Zapatistas coming from the villages.

Mark Dufmstra

The group first met in Mexico City and then continued on to Chiapas. They were welcomed by the Zapatistas a few days before arriving in Mexico City.

Despite that news, most decided to complete the trip. "We all knew what we were getting into and that it was going to be a tense situation. But we knew that made it all the more urgent that we go down there," he said.

After they arrived in Chiapas, the group had a meeting and decided they were going to deliver materials they had to the refugee camps that had developed after the paramilitary crisis. "We spent the whole week organizing that. We did a lot of protest work in the cities of Chiapas. We visited the refugee camps and delivered aid and helped the people of the refugee camps get the Mexican military out because they had been harassing people and causing trouble after everything," he said.

Chiapas is a region with a large influence from the Zapatistas, a largely native group of rebels that have a movement to reconcile the needs of indigenous populations with the Mexican government. "They have been developing for quite awhile in the early '90s. They fight elements in the Mexican government that need to be changed such as the one-party status and the widespread corruption and the use of military against indigenous populations. Wherever we went there was an enormous support for the Zapatistas coming from the villages," Dufmstra said.

Due to increased military activity, on Jan. 1 the group was evacuated from Oventic, a Zapatista meeting center, to the mountains. They were moved to safety by the 11th of January.

"It was a risky trip," Dufmstra said. "There were a lot of problems on the way there. We were attacked by the military on the way to Oventic but we got there and were able to meet with the Zapatistas. We met with the civilians and they were going to help us move the refugees. We were attacked by the military on the way back but we made it back to Mexico City. It was a risky trip throughout the whole thing."
stayed in a small Mayan village. They slept on the ground and heard planes flying overhead at night. They did not know how long they would have to stay up in the air.

"That was pretty scary. We could hear some gunshots. I didn't sleep much. It was definitely the pinnacle of excitement for the trip. Luckily, we were able to come down the next morning. As soon as we got back down, we left the area," he said.

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He would encourage others to make the same trip. The native culture relies heavily on international support. "We were thanked repeatedly just for being there and being kind of a reality check for the Mexican government. If you have the ability to go, go and you'll make a difference just by being there. It's hard to explain, but you get a feeling from the other people that they really appreciate your presence."

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Health Beat

What you should know about meningitis

CANDICE LOGG
STAFF

The University of Idaho Student Health Center has seen a case of bacterial meningitis on campus since February of 1996, but if students understand signs and symptoms of the meningococcal disease, it could be life-saving for the next occurrence, said Jeanie Schneider, a registered nurse at Student Health.

"Bacterial meningitis occurs rarely and sporadically throughout the year, usually in the later winter or early spring," Schneider said. "We do see it in college populations. Although it is rare, it is important for everyone to understand it in order to minimize its occurrence."

Meningitis is an inflammation of the linings of the brain and spinal cord caused by either viruses or bacteria. Viral meningitis is a relatively less serious form of meningitis and more common. Signs and symptoms can include stiff neck, headache, nausea, vomiting and rash. Most cases run a short course and because it is caused by a virus, antibiotics are not effective and an individual does not require any treatment.

It is bacterial meningitis, however, that can cause grave illness and rapidly progress to death unless it is diagnosed and treated early. Schneider said approximately 10 percent of the general population carry meningococcal bacteria in the nose and throat in a harmless state.

During meningococcal disease outbreaks, the percentage of people carrying the bacteria may approach 75 percent, yet the percentage of people who develop this disease is less than 1 percent. This low occurrence of disease following exposure suggests that a person's own immune system and bacterial factors play a key role in disease development.

Meningococcal bacteria cannot usually live for more than a few minutes outside the body and they are not easily transmitted by routine contact with an infected person in a classroom, dining room or rest room. People who are at risk of contracting the disease are roommates, close friends, family members or spouses who have had intimate contact with the oral secretions of a person diagnosed with meningococcal disease. Examples of close contact include kissing, sharing eating utensils, and being exposed to droplet contamination from the nose and throat.

Although meningococcal disease can be rapidly progressive, the likelihood of full recovery is increased with early diagnosis and treatment. Early recognition and the use of such antibiotics as ciprofloxacin and rifampicin is recommended for those who may have been exposed to a person with meningococcal disease. These antibiotics are available at the Health Center.

"You do see cases of meningitis in university populations, in sororities, fraternities — any close living quarters," Schneider said. "But it’s a very low occurrence with several factors involved. It doesn’t mean that we’re [UI campus] more at risk and it doesn’t mean that everyone is going to get it if they come in contact with someone is diagnosed with it because they’re not.

In order to reduce the risk of contracting meningococcal disease, a lifestyle that includes a balanced diet, adequate sleep, appropriate exercise, and the avoidance of excessive stress is very important.

"Everyone should be sensitive to public health measures," Schneider said.

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Committee axes bill setting aside funds for talented students

Associated Press

BOISE — Three lawmakers want the state to set aside 5 percent of any budget surplus each year for a gifted-and-talented student endorsement.

But the House Revenue and Taxation Committee on Friday refused even to authorize printing of the bill from Republican Rep. Rayneder Miller and Tom Trail of Moscow and Democrat Donna Boc of Post Falls.

Democratic Rep. Chuck Cuddy of Onsin said he had a problem obligating money from the state's general fund for next year's Legislature.

"If we are going to make a general fund obligation, I think we should do it on school buildings," he said.

Revenue and Taxation Chairman Donna Jones, R-Payette, said the House Appropriations Committee should consider the proposal instead.

Trail said gifted-and-talented students make up about 10 percent of the public school enrollment system, but programs for them include only 1 percent of the schools. He said about 10 percent of the districts lacked any such program.

"We know some gifted students get bored and drop out of school." Trail said the state Department of Education seeks $500,000 for gifted-and-talented programs in its current budget.

Gifted-and-talented students make up about 10 percent of Idaho's public school enrollment.

About 25 percent of the districts lack any program for such students.

That would be the minimum balance in the endowment under the bill, he said.

The state has carried over budget surpluses of $271 million during the past 10 years, he said. Five percent of these surpluses would have amounted to about $13 million.

His proposal called for the Department of Education awarding grants to school districts out of the endowment. The state would divide 40 percent of the money and the districts would shoulder the rest.

The endowment would become self-funding in 2008, Trail said.

Rep. Golden Linford, R-Redfish, said setting aside 5 percent of the budget surplus for the endowment would create peaks and valleys in the funding stream.

"It's a strange way to do business," he said.

Trail said the endowment also would seek support from private foundations.

Leaving their mark

Freshmen of Delta Tau Delta work on the new Greek sign behind their house.
Sit down and shut up – please

WES RAMEL
OPINION EDITOR

A little respect for the common man seems to be lacking these days. Recently, I went to one of our school’s athletic events, and a couple of people two rows in front of us insisted on standing most of the game. Now, I don’t have a problem with people standing up to watch the game — if the other people around me are standing up. But in this case, only two people in the entire section bothered to stand up. They sure made fools of themselves standing when everybody else in the stands was sitting.

East coast of the game, the people sitting directly behind these two decided to move — this was after it was clear the two annoying stands were not going to sit down. It’s not like people all around them weren’t complaining as there were calling them names and yelling “down in front!” in a desperate attempt to get them to sit down.

Now, I have no problem with people standing up because they want to cheer and yell and scream. But these two, a guy and a girl, just stood silent with arms crossed while people politely, then impatiently, asked them to sit down.

On several occasions when others were shouting for the two stands to sit down, the guy would turn around and asked, “Why don’t you stand up?” In other words, even though nobody else wanted to stand up, the people behind him were supposed to stand up just to watch the game? Gee, there’s some sound reasoning.

In fact, during a large part of the game, I stood up just to see what was going on. Sometimes I would hear people behind me groan when I stood. However, we would conclude, “It’s not his fault, it’s those morons in front of him.” I felt bad about blocking the view of the people behind me, who clearly did not want to stand to see the game, but what else could I do? Remember, I came to watch a sporting event, not the back of somebody’s shirt.

Oh sure, we could have moved to sit in different seats, but why should somebody have to move seats just because the people in front of them won’t have a little respect? After all, during the civil rights movement Rosa Parks refused to move from her seat — she certainly got her point across.

Throughout the game they sat once in a while — everyone behind them would cheer and yell, “thank you!” With about 10 minutes left in the game I took matters into my own hands. I made a particularly scathing comment that was plenty loud for the two stands to hear. I said, “I mean, I don’t mind if people are going to stand up to cheer, but they’re just standing to annoy people.” It worked, and they sat down until the last few minutes of the game when everybody was standing.

But the bigger mystery is why drastic action must be taken simply to enforce a bit of common courtesy. Maybe it’s just Moscow, or the fact that our generation doesn’t know the meaning of the word respect. After all, this is the same town where somebody on a bike can be mowed over by a moron and get hit but as and kicked off for it. Perhaps, I should explain the incident. I was biking down the sidewalk on Mica Street, and was almost at the corner of Sixth Street. The light was green and the walk sign was on so I went cruising through the intersection — well sort of. Some dude in a white Jeep Cherokee was going the same direction I was, and turned right into me, at about 25 miles per hour. How somebody takes a 90 degree corner that fast is a open utility vehicle I’ll never know.

Luckily, I saw this lunatic out of the corner of my eye before he turned into me. I slammed on my brakes, turned my wheel sideways, and hit the side of his Jeep, very nearly sliding under it.

The driver was going so fast, it took him until the Jackson Street intersection to stop a stop. He stopped and opened his door, presumably to see if I was hurt or not. Seeing I was alright, he took the time to flip me off, yell ‘f*ck you” and other obscenities, slam his door shut, and floored it once again.

Mind you, all this happened near one of those pedestrian friendly signs. Yeah, right. Maybe a required course at our college should be how to be respectful of others and have a little common courtesy. Not everyone around here would pass it on their first try.

OPINION

Should President Clinton be impeached?

Associated Press

Impeachment. Reporters and political commentators have been tooting the word around with breathless since reports surfaced that Bill Clinton had an affair with a then-21-year-old White House intern and urged her to lie about it.

The rumor mill is running overtime that this may be the fatal blow to an administration plagued by allegations of affairs, sexual harassment, real estate cover-ups and campaign scandals.

If not for these earlier charges, pretty Monica Lewinsky and her reported late-night visits to the Oval Office might not be such a big deal. Few people seem surprised that Clinton had an affair, not after the Gennifer Flowers and Paula Jones incidents, but the flap is that a Clinton confidante asked her to lie about it under oath.

In December 1995, Lewinsky became an intern to the chief of staff, right down the hall from Clinton. She later moved and was transferred to the Pentagon, where she befriended a White House staffer Linda Tripp. Tripp says she recorded conversations in which Lewinsky bragged about an affair with Clinton and said she was asked to lie about it. Tripp gave the tapes to Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr, who was expanding his probe in light of the reports.

But earlier this month Lewinsky denied the affair in a sworn affidavit. She’s sticking to that story now, and so is Clinton.

Other sources say Clinton and his confidante tried to help Lewinsky get other jobs around the time she was to testify in the ongoing Paula Jones trial.

In this tangled web, it may be a little early to be calling impeachment.

Few people seem surprised that Clinton had an affair, not after the Gennifer Flowers and Paula Jones incidents, but the flap is that a Clinton confidante asked her to lie about it under oath.

DO YOU SWEAR TO TELL THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH?

WHAT WERE MY OPTIONS, AGAIN?

HELP WANTED

Need a job? The Argonaut is looking for an opinion columnist. Apply at the third floor of the SUB.
Letters to the editor

College of Forestry is about more than logging

Editor's note: In the Feb. 6 issue a different version of this letter to the editor was run in error, for which we apologize for the mistake.

On Friday, Jan. 30, columnist Wade Grish wrote the following: "While the forestry department claims to teach forest biology, that it mainly teaches logging. The program is not based on ecology, it is based on economics. Many ecology-minded forestry students say I have known quite a few interesting people who have studies the field for exactly that reason." First, the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences includes the departments of Forest Resources, Forest Products, Fish and Wildlife Resources, Resource Information, and Recreation and Tourism. In the department of Forest Resources, a student can earn a degree in Natural Resources Ecology and Conservation. Out of 17 options offered in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences only two (timber harvesting and production options) specialize in logging. The graduates from these different departments may be involved in US Forest Service logging operations by contributing their input into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An interdisciplinary team of people from forest resources, forest products, fish and wildlife resources, range resources, and resource recreation and tourism determines the environmental impacts of the harvesting operations. The public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed harvesting plan and have their suggestions included in the EIS. Then the alternative that achieves the best multiple use of the land is implemented. This process is required by the National Environmental Policy Act and all federal land managers have to follow this law.

The public is experimenting in the Idaho National Forests. The old logging roads provide access to hunting, hiking and fishing opportunities. Since every one of us owns the national forests, we should all have the opportunity to visit them. The national forests allow the public to experience recreational activities including wilderness. Relatively few people visit roadless areas.

The increased low intensity ground fires in roadless and wilderness areas has been altered by fire suppression during the last century. This has resulted in an increase in tree densities and ground fuels, which could cause a fire of such severity that wildfires would be burned by uncontrolled (so called "natural" Forest Service). Early Europeans and Native Americans practiced prescribed burning as a way to reduce fire loads, while increasing open areas for agriculture and wildlife. Unless you're advocating the use of prescribed fire in the wilderness Mr. Grish, the entire watershed in these roadless areas will experience severe impacts.

We are students in the department of forest resources. We demand management option, and ecology is the core of our education. Mr. Grish stated "students who prefer the fine art in the Forest Science on a 2-year path to the program in the department," and "When I smell a pulp mill, such as the Potlatch Corporation plant in Lewiston, I smell pollution and disease. Some people smell small amount of paper." Mr. Grish, your paper you write on is produced in a pulp mill like the one in Lewiston, Idaho. If you feel the only benefits to society from a pulp mill are pollution and disease, stop using products produced there like newspaper, toilet paper, and computer paper.

Most of the forests of Idaho have been logged two to three times and are a renewable resource. The wood products from the forest are biodegradable, and will grow back in 50 years. By restricting the supply of lumber, the price increases and other products are used as substitutes. So people like Mr. Grish will someday build their homes out of products like concrete, brick, steel, plastic, and wood chips that are bonded with adhesives. These products take tremendous amount of energy to produce and cause widespread environmental damage with their extraction (mining), Mr. Grish, no logging, caused Lake Coeur d'Alene to become one of the most polluted lakes in the United States. A Douglas-fir 2x4 will decompose in 50 years while recycling the nutrients for other plants in the ecosystem. A piece of plastic or a steel 2x4 can take hundreds of years to decompose without producing nutrients that are of use to a living ecosystem.

Care should be given, Mr. Grish, to making unbiased short-term decisions, which would result in greater damage to the environment in the long run. We invite you to experience first hand what is being taught in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences. There are meetings of various student organizations on a weekly basis and we encourage you and other students to attend.

Donald Regan
Robert Jenko

Wade should stop using toilet paper

Well, Mr. Grish has gone and done it again. I am referring to his lack of insight that was displayed in the Jan. 30 column entitled, "Wilderness: love it or leave it alone." This piece of work demonstrates the exact qualities that make radical environmentalists discreditable in the eyes of our government and the general public. If hypocrisy and ignorance are the signs of an uneducated individual, then Wade Grish must not be a student at the University of Idaho.

Grish's assertion that the College of Forestry only teaches logging is biased and not an idea that he has thoroughly researched. Any student in the College of Forestry can tell you that much of the curriculum is based on ecology. For instance, my major happens to be Forest Products, with an emphasis on timber extraction. Yet abou half of my required courses have nothing to do with logging or timber production. These courses include: biology, botany, dendrology, ecology, soils, watershed management, and several others. And I'm in Forest Products, not Forest Resources! Students I know who are in Forest Resources spend even more of their college careers learning about ecology and the environment.

The last paragraph of the column is an excellent example in hypocritical thinking, Mr. Grish writes that pulp mills like the Potlatch mill in Lewiston make him smell "pollution and disease" while other people smell money. I laughed out loud upon reading this. Where does Wade think the paper the Argonaut is printed on came from? And I could be wrong, but isn't Wade Gentzler paid to write columns for a paper?

If Wade doesn't want to cut any trees down he shouldn't be a hypocrite by depending on forest products. He should try writing classic notes on alone tablets instead of a notebook, live in a mud hut with no wood structure, and use something besides toilet paper in the bathroom stall. At that point it would be time to talk about saving all the trees. Even products that are made from 100 percent recycled material had to start somewhere. The few remaining wilderness areas that haven't had much human contact should be preserved, but let's not fool ourselves into thinking we're ready to live without products that come from trees.

—Jeremy Greese

Submissions must be typed, signed and include the phone number and address of each writer. Mail submissions should be addressed to Argonaut Editor, 301 Student Union, Moscow, ID, 83844-4271. Submissions are also accepted via e-mail (argonaut@uidaho.edu) or by fax (208-885-2222). The Argonaut reserves the right to refuse or edit letters.

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Wag the Dog begs for more

A movie review by Amy Sanderson

Director Barry Levinson’s new satire on the corruption in politics and the media’s ability to twist the facts comes at an uncomfortable time for the Clinton Administration. The sex scandals floating around Slick Willy closely resemble those affecting the fictitious president in this story about a Hollywood-style media cover-up.

In Wag the Dog a White House press staffer goes into panic after the president is accused of a fling with a Firefly Girl in the Oval Office. A spin doctor is brought into the scene to divert media attention away from little girls and sex created presidents until the elections take place in just a few days. Robert DeNiro plays genius equipped with the art of twisting logic. Together with a nervous presidential advisor, played by Anne Heche, DeNiro recruits a flamboyant and affable Hollywood producer and together they invent a story and a war with unsuspecting Albania.

Dustin Hoffman is successful as a satire actor with his glibly, nearly over-the-top performance of eccentric producer Stanley Motz. Masterminding the entire plot, Motz goes as far as to furnish a phony news clip created with a blue screen, a digital proxy cat and an unknown actress. The icing on the cake comes with an uplifting song, in the same vein as “We are the World”, to arouse the public’s emotion for a phony war hero who has been left behind in aggressive Albania. Willis Nelson makes an appearance as the songwriter whose Motz includes in his creative crew who eagerly deliberate on a believable plot synopsis and the right costumes for a war.

The snappy dialogue created by writer David Mamet is one of the highlights of the film as is the visually sumptuous photography. Director of photography Robert Richardson creates a mystical, drunk effect in the bright and soft-focused advisor, an emotional after the film ends.

It certainly has technology accused of being gullible, manipulating public who are easily manipulated by the tricks of technology and unethical news and government leaders.

As the film’s slogan reads, a dog wags his tail because he isagered, but if the tail was smarter, the tail wag the dog. The film’s theme focuses on the problem of a public opinion formed by political commercials, fairy tattoos, and emotional news coverage. As the saying implies, the public is like a sleeping dog constantly getting wagged by corrupt leaders and a lazy, navet media who create the truth, not simply report it. The film is promising an finale does not deliver the punch seen in more successful satires. The impressive cast and director who has authored such films as Rainmen, Slapshers, and Good Morning Vietnam, the film was a bit of a disappointment. The downfall happens once a convict, played by Woody Harrelson, is found at a war hero. Weak events and an unsatisfying ending follow. It is here that another draft of the film seems needed. Maybe it can be blamed on the fact it was shot in 29 days for $12 million and neither the actors nor scenes were given enough inspiration. Although Wag the Dog is funny, meaningful and fairly well done, it is much more bark than bite.
The Caffeinated Rants of
T. Scott Carpenter

Hey, he’s not having a stroke!

Selections are constantly telling us what’s good and bad for us. One week they’ll say that milk gives you stronger bones and teeth, the next they’re warning you in lay of the milk or you’ll grow a giant lamb bone on the side of your head.

How are we possibly expected to know what is good for us and what isn’t? We can’t, and that’s why we eat at McDonald’s. We give up! If you spend your life constantly worrying about eating the wrong food, you’ll drop dead of an ulcer that’s eaten its way through the lining of your stomach and out your back, leaving a gaping, acidic hole. Now you don’t want that, do you?

However, there is one thing that we do know for sure. Those people who wear cargo pants as opposed to blue jeans, are generally expected to live much longer. The reason for this is quite simple.

Have you ever been sitting in class for a long period of time with your wallet in your back pocket? You don’t put the wallet in your front pocket, because if you did you would have to put your keys in your back pocket, and that’s no good. So you’re sitting there, and little do you know that the wallet is pinching off a major artery in your right or left buttck. Personally, I was always a right buttck kind of guy, so we will just assume that everybody is.

So the artery is pinched off and blood ceases to move in that half of your body. You feel a tingling sensation, followed by cold and clamminess as that half of your body slowly becomes more corpse-like. The right half of your face begins to sag, and you’re thinking you might be having a stroke. You try to stand up, but your legs collapse and you fall face first into the lap of the girl next to you, a stream of drool running from the corner of your inappreciated mouth. She clubs you with a hardcover Finite Math book (available from the campus bookstore for around $200 and a kidney) and you quickly lapse into unconsciousness.

This type of social behavior is just plain unacceptable, but luckily it’s also preventable. You see, with cargo pants, you are able to put your bulging wallet into one of those rear pockets located on the outside of your thighs, therefore leaving the back pockets empty, much to the benefit of your major butck artery. Now when you are sitting in class, you can think of much more dignified ways to provoke that nearby girl into clapping you.

Not only will wearing cargo pants make you more popular, but they will also decrease your life span by up to 45 years! That’s right, by simply wearing these wonderful pants on a regular basis, your life expectancy will jump from a mere 75 years to 120 years! This is because when you strave half of your body from blood on a regular basis, that half of your brain suffers too.

Personally, I was always a right buttck kind of guy.

When there is no blood coursing through your right hemisphere, your brain cells will start dropping like monkeys from trees. Why, it’s a cerebral holocaust! Back in high school, they probably showed you those informative videos about the effects of marijuana. If so, you’ve probably seen those colorful x-rays depicting the brain activity of a pot smoker versus that of a jock. If you paid attention, you would have noticed that the jock’s brain had huge black areas indicating dead tissue. This is because Mike and Reckov do not make cargo pants!

You see, if you are going to wear pants other than those of the cargo persuasion, you might as well speed up the dying process and start smoking asbestos cigarettes. I can’t help someone who doesn’t want to be helped.
Mark Fuhrman back in limelight as radio talk show host in Northwest

NICHOLAS K. GERARDO

SPokane—Mark Fuhrman is no longer a police officer, but the key figure in the O.J. Simpson murder trial can't seem to get away from crime, or the limelight.

Fuhrman has a new weekly radio call-in show here, about 100 miles west of his Idaho ranch, that focuses on crime. And he has a new book coming out, about a 23-year-old unsolved murder among Connecticut's elite.


But the crime that appears to most interest his callers is the 1994 murders of Simpson's wife, Nicole, and his friend Ron Goldman and the subsequent sensational trial of O.J. Simpson, the football star turned actor and pitchman.

Many of Fuhrman's callers have an encyclopedic knowledge of the case.

One recent Thursday afternoon, "Joan" from Santa, Idaho, blasted Simpson's 1995 acquittal on Judge Lance Ito's police-officer was.

"I think she's the number-one person responsible for O.J.'s smiling on the golf course," said the details.

"I tend to agree," Fuhrman said. "You can kind of tell that when you see them walk. I'm surprised he doesn't walk two paces to the rear.

Many callers offer support to Fuhrman, who moved to Idaho after leaving the Los Angeles Police Department in disgrace.

Fuhrman was the officer who found the infamous bloody glove at the Simpson murder scene. But he was discredited after he said he had not used the racist slur "nigger" in 10 years. Taped interviews with an aspiring screenwriter showed that he had, setting the stage for his no-contest plea to a perjury charge and for defense claims that Simpson was the victim of a racist police conspiracy.

A lot of people use the term, said "Cathy," a caller from Spokane.

"I'm 42, and I can't believe there would be a person my age who has a kid or something who hasn't said that word," she said.

"It should never have been brought into the case," Fuhrman agreed.

After leaving the police force, Fuhrman, a Northwest native who grew up in Eastonville, Wash., near Tacoma, moved to Sandpoint, Idaho, where he worked as an apprentice electrician and snagged some media attention for pitching out a news photographer.

He also published a best-selling book Miami: A Drumbeat about the Simpson case, and embarked on a nationwide publicity tour.

"I'd prefer to be anonymous, a face in the crowd, but that's the way it turned out," Fuhrman says.

In January, Spokane talk-radio station KXLY offered him a three-hour weekly show, paired with local talk-show veteran Mike Fitzsimmons to interview cops and take listener calls.

The Crime Show now is heard locally, though producers have hopes of syndicating it. Simpson is not a fan.

"I think that's one of the problems they talk about that's dividing our country," Simpson told ESPN recently. "You see Mark Fuhrman doing a radio show."

"You can go outside mental institutions and put the same devil," Fuhrman said of Simpson's remark.

"People who want to side with him I don't want on my side," he added.

"I get thousands of letters that praise me. Four were negative," he said. Simpson spelled a lot of words wrong in the four of them.

Fuhrman, a tall man with a military bearing, seems relaxed in an interview at the studio. He has a sense of humor about his role in the latest "trial of the century" and his life since then.

Holding up a fat letter mailed to him at the radio station, he presses a corner of the missive to his forehead and closes his eyes.

"He knows where the knife is. He knows where the clothes are. He's drawn me a map, Fuhrman interposes.

"We created a hobby for them," he says of obsessive Simpson trial buffs, who flock to his book signings.

An early edition of his radio show featured exclusively on the Simpson case, a topic Fuhrman hopes to avoid in future, did "Die" from North Carolina, who learned about the show on the Internet, long enough to name his 15-year-old daughter Simpson.

"I don't think you have much experience to make that determination," Fuhrman retorted. "Considering you did not touch or feel any of the evidence, considering you probably missed part of that trial you don't even know you missed.

"Fuhrman is not above a little name dropping on his show.

"It's in New York, in Elaine's, eating with my agent and Geraldo (Rivera) comes in and sits with me," he tells his audience at one point.

"We have a friendship going," Fuhrman says of Rivera. "He's a decent family man."

"Of TV talk-show host Charles Grödin.

"Chuck's a good guy.

When caller "Connie" says she would never watch Ovarh Winfrey's show again because she felt the TV talk-show queen was rude to Fuhrman, he defends Winfrey.

"She's a nice lady, a professional," he says. "I would do her show again."

Fuhrman was fired because of his celebrity and his expertise on crime issues, says Brian Paul, KXLY program director.

"He has a good personality on the air. He sounds good," Paul says.

But the show has its critics.

"This guy is an admitted racist. He perjured himself in a court of law in a murder trial," says caller "Road" from Spokane.

"Who's your next call going to be," Richard Butler asks "Dick" from Washougal, referring to the leader of the white-supremacist Aryan Nations, who also lives in northern Idaho. "There's nothing worse in our society than overt racism."

After the success of his Simpson book, Fuhrman took a suggestion from celebrity writer Dominick Dunne and examined the 1975 golf-club-beating death of 15-year-old Martha Mosley in Greenwich, Conn. Fuhrman's new book, Murder in Greenwich, due out in May, will name the killer and detail mistakes by local law officers, he says.

Washington officials scoff at Fuhrman's claims.
Do you like the outdoors? Do you like to run, skip, and frolic through the meadows? Does the crisp smell of nature's playground inspire you to take pen in hand and scribble literary brilliance? If so, perhaps you have what it takes to write for the outdoors section of this splendid journalistic publication. Boogie on up to the third floor of the SUB and fill out an application.

A Look Ahead

- A series of works by the late Andy Warhol is on display at the Pritchard Art Gallery until Feb. 28. The series, entitled Endangered Species, features portraits of animals that were facing extinction in 1983.
- The Moscow Community Theater brings Arthur Miller's The Crucible to the stage at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Moscow, Feb. 5-Feb. 14, Thursday-Friday 7:30 p.m. and Saturday 2:00 p.m. Ticket prices are $6 for adults; $3 students and seniors.
- Are you a fan of the chipper shredder as a lethal weapon? If so, watch Fargo at the Borah Theater in the SUB tomorrow. Showtime is at 7 p.m. and admission is $2 with student ID, and $3 without.
- Houston Hall's "Take My Breath Away" Valentine's Day Dance will be in the Gault-Upham Party Room Feb. 14 from 8:30 to midnight. Tickets are available at Union Ticketing Student Union Information Desk.
- Oh, that wacky Griswold family! Watch the hilarious antics run amok as Chevy Chase, his wife and biological spawns eat dog pee sandwiches in National Lampoon's Vacation. See it in the Borah Theater on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

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call 885-6485 for more info.
Women rally late to win in overtime

The University of Idaho women's basketball team struggled for most of their contest against Big West rival New Mexico State this past Saturday in Los Cruces at the Pan American Center. These in-state, like-like fashion, the Vandals struck late in the second half to send the game to overtime.

In the second half of action, the Vandals hit only 11 of 35 shots but attempted 13 free throws. The Aggies, on the other hand, hit just 35 percent of its shots in the second half but looked to be in position to win until the Vandals struck late. In overtime, New Mexico State could only muster eight points.

For the game, the Aggies (7-15, 208 in the Big West) had a balanced attack on offense as four players scored in double figures. Alexis Dunkley led New Mexico State with 15 points on 5 of 10 shooting, including four of six from behind the three-point line. Lauren O'Neill scored 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds. LaCresha Clark scored 11 on 4 of 8 shooting and Wendy Roy added 10 points and seven rebounds for the Aggies.

With the win, the Vandals improved to 11-12 and 6-3 in the Big West. The Vandals also were able to move a half-game closer to Big West East Division leader Boise State. The Vandals are tied with Nevada for second place in the division.

Idaho will next face North Texas at home on Friday beginning at 7 p.m.
Idaho Track and Field

The men's and women's track teams tasted success this weekend at the 1998 Vandal Scoring Meet, held Friday and Saturday at the Idaho Dome. The men's teams easily defeated both Boise State (38) and Eastern Washington (47) with their 79 point effort, but fell short against the University of Washington 49-76. Many Idaho field events had huge performances. Geoff Judd highlighted for the team in the high jump, clearing 6-foot-11-inch for the first place finish, while Greg Crippe captured second with his 22-foot-3-inch effort in the long jump. Chris Kwanmele went over two feet further than his closest competitor in the triple jump at 52-feet-8.75-inches. Jawarey Hooker from Washington beat the previous Kibble Dome record in the 60 meter with a time of 6.69 seconds. The previous record was set by Lee Gordon of Oregon International in 1987 with a time of 6.74 seconds.

The Idaho women easily defeated Boise State 82-30 but fell short of UW 47-78. Andrea Jenkins finished third in the mile at 5:08.30 and 2:17.56 in the 800 meters. Melanie Keilenbeek tied for second in the Pole Vault at 10 feet, 1.5 inches.

Women's Basketball

The Idaho women are finally back home after four games on the road Friday night against North Texas. Tip off is at 7 p.m. in Memorial Gym.

Men's Basketball

The Vandal men are on the road this Thursday in Denton, Texas to take on the Mean Green of North Texas. UI recently beat UNI last week in the Kibble Dome. Game time is at 2:35 p.m. Pacific.

Women's Tennis

Fresno State's women's tennis team beat Idaho 8-1 Sunday night. The match, originally scheduled in Fresno, moved to an indoor facility in Stockton, Calif. because of rain.

The Vandal's failed to win a single set, but the doubles tandem of Cameron Erickson and Erin Westworth defeated Fresno State's Renee Kops and Terje Pallo 8-3.

Volleyball

The University of Idaho volleyball team inked its first recruit. Friday, signing 6-foot-11-inch setter Jennifer Neville to a national letter of intent.

Neville, 17, starred on the Sonoma Valley High School volleyball team in Sonoma, Calif. for three years. She led SVHS to a 42-2 record last year as it advanced to the finals of the North Coast Section and Northern California. SVHS also went 88-22 in her three-year varsity career.

"She is an extremely athletic setter," second-year Idaho coach Carl Ferreira said. "She's very competitive and has an excellent attitude and work ethic. As of today, I see her being a player right away."

In her senior year, Neville earned first-team honors in the Sonoma County League as well as the All-Empire team, which comprises four conferences in northern California. She also averaged 23.7 assists, 2.5 blocks and 4.0 kills per match while hitting a .300 clip last season in being named team co-MVP.

"What I'm looking for are players who make a significant impact and allow us to compete in the upper tier of the Big West Conference and nationally," Ferreira said. "Neville will be the impact player very early in her career."

Neville fills the Vandal's need for another setter. Last year, 6-foot-2-inch sophomore Ana Reznick served as Idaho's only setter for most of the season. But in 1998, Ferreira plans to use both Reznick and Neville at the setter position, even at the same time.

"Ana will definitely set next year," Ferreira said. "But my goal is to see a variation of a 5-1 and a 6-2 system."

Ferreira is hoping to sign two more players in the next few days.

Pullman Youth Soccer Association

Soccer referees are needed for the upcoming spring season. An entry-level soccer referee certification clinic will be held in Moscow on March 6-8. RSVP is required; contact Jeff Wigel at 235-3111 by Sunday, Feb. 22 for more information.

Ul Golf Course

Start thinking about golf this spring. Season passes for the spring semester go on sale Feb. 11 at the Ul pro shop. Shop hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call 885-6171 to verify the opening date.

Women's Rugby Practice

The Idaho women's rugby club will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. in the Kibble Dome. All interested players, meet on the northwest concourse. Please contact Aimee or Janet for more information at 883-8345.

Men's Volleyball Club

The men's volleyball club is looking for some new faces, both as players and a coach for the spring season. Players and potential coaches should contact Wendy Wilson at ewilson979@uiwexidaho.edu.

Snow Reports

(Tues-32°F)

Silver Mountain

New snow in last 24 hours — 5" New snow in last week — 5"

Schweitzer Mountain

New snow in last 24 hours — 2"

New snow in last week — 2"

ATTENTION STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF

WHO PARK ON CAMPUS

February 18

11:00 - 1:00

Appaloosa Room, Student Union

Mark this date on your calendar to attend a parking forum for recommendations, requests, suggestions or to find out more information.
Idaho skiers hit Mt. Spokane powder

STEVE BLATNER
SPORTS

While defending Olympic champion Tommy Moe and World Cup leader Hermann Maier sat idle due to heavy snow and dense fog atop Mount Karamatsu in Nagano, Japan, the Idaho men’s and women’s ski teams hit the slopes of Mt. Spokane.

The Idaho ski team competes in the Northwest Collegiate Ski Conference of the United States Collegiate Ski Associations. The Vandals make up the conference with 15 other Northwest colleges and universities. Lewis-Clark State College, Whitman College, the University of Oregon and the University of British Columbia are a few of the schools Idaho faces in a season.

Idaho, while not the smallest school in the conference, must feel like David squaring off against Goliath when battling the likes of Oregon and British Columbia.

“Some of the schools give their kids scholarships, which leads to faster times,” Idaho coach Jerry McMurry said. Skiing is a club sport at Idaho and, as a result, scholarships are not available to athletes.

The Vandals’ men’s team has hung tough despite the staunch competition. After two races, the men’s team is in eighth place in the 16-team field and the women’s team was sitting pretty in twelfth. In order to qualify for the Regional Championships held in Park City, Utah, teams must finish in the top eight.

The Idaho Ski Club welcomes all participants but racing spots are limited to those athletes who show dedication to the team, a positive attitude and the ability to perform.

A few racer’s in particular shine for the Vandals this season. McMurry is very high on Dane Kirby from Mt. Hood Academy, who the coach describes as “quite fast and capable of winning at any given time.” Matt Wedeking, Jeff Stavick, and Chris Milowski are top individual performers for the men’s team.

On the women’s side, McMurry likes what he sees in freshmen Nicole Jones, as “she shows great promise.” Cathy Martz along with Tasha Kerby are top competitors who other teams and individual skiers can’t afford to look past.

The Vandals’ big guns did not disappoint this past weekend at Mt. Spokane.

Kerby was Idaho’s top finisher on the men’s side as he captured third in the slalom with a time of 1:27.90. Wedeking followed at No. 29 with a time of 1:42.87. Stavick, Miskki, Mark Smith, and Doug Wyatt all finished in the top 50 for the men. Poor conditions wiped out the second day of men’s competition.

The Vandals’ highest finishing women’s competitor in the slalom was Martz who finished 15th with a time of 1:41.74 while teammate Jones finished 29th with a time of 1:56.65. Kerby and Anna Martin finished out the women’s team by placing 32nd and 39th.

Results from Monday’s competition were not available, but both the men and women had outside chances of qualifying for the Regional Championships.

At the Regional Championships, the Northwest Conference competes against the Grand Teton Conference which incorporates schools in Utah, Montana, Idaho State and the Rocky Mountain Conference which includes Wyoming and all Colorado schools.

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Leigh Rubin

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