The University of Idaho has been chosen to connect the very high performance Backbone Network Service by the National Science Foundation. The service, referred to as vBNS, will be similar to the Internet, but over 100 times faster.

President Clinton named the UI, along with 29 selected institutions, in a conference in San Francisco last Thursday.

"By building an Internet that is faster and more advanced, we can keep the United States at the cutting edge of Internet technology, and explore new applications in distance learning, telemedicine, and scientific research," Clinton announced.

Along with access, the UI will receive a $350,000 grant to help with the costs of connecting to the vBNS, which is being called Internet 2. The network will operate at 622 million bits per second, much faster than the current standards of 33,600 or 28,800 bits per second. It is expected to eventually run at 2.4 billion bits per second.

The vBNS was designed to allow researchers to share information quickly and easily. It promises to create new possibilities for long-distance learning and exploration.

The NSF had already named 63 other institutions to participate, and hopes to eventually link 150 research centers through the new network.

The university's membership in the Internet 2 project opens new doors for Idaho researchers, said Glenn Wilde, director of UI Information Resources and Technology, in a press release.

"The Daily News quoted John You, UI research and development coordinator, as saying that the network will let universities work faster, and not just in the sciences. He said that the grant places the UI in the top 92 research universities in the country. Washington State University and Montana State University were also named.

The NSF and MCI Telecommunications Corp. have been working on the five-year, $50 million vBNS project since 1995. President Clinton and Vice President Gore announced the project in 1996.

UI, WSU join to bring in more than 75 employers
CANDICE LONG

More than 75 employers will set up shop at the 1998 Summer Jobs and Internships Fair held tomorrow from noon to 4 p.m. in the Ballroom of the Compton Union Building at Washington State University. This event will be open to all college students who are seeking internships and/or summer jobs.

For the first time the University of Idaho's Cooperative Education and Office of Multicultural Affairs have joined with WSU's Career Services and Multicultural Student Services to sponsor the largest Summer Jobs and Internships Fair ever. As always, the fair will offer students an opportunity to meet a large number of potential employers in a short period of time.

"There will definitely be a wide range of employers that will be looking for any students of any majors," said Alice Pope-Batist, UI director of Cooperative Education. "Oftentimes when students attend career fairs, they feel employed are only looking for business and engineering majors. This fair will also appeal to liberal arts majors, education majors, communication majors, and even forestry students.

Some of the employers already registered include Advanced Silicon Materials, Inc., Aquaplan Technology Corporation, Bureau of Land Management, Camp Raganunda, Coldwater Creek, IBM Corporation, Lake Cover D' Alene Chutes, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and many more. Batist said many of these companies are actively recruiting students of many cultures to diversify their respective places of business.

Several employers will have full-time positions available for May and August 1999 college graduates and many students will be offered on-the-spot internships. According to the UI Cooperative Education Career Fair Checklist, students should have numerous copies of their resume ready and accessible in a nice folder, they should research the companies they are interested in before speaking with a representative, and they should also rehearse what they plan to say.

"Our goal right now is to have students come out and take advantage of the fair — more than they have in the past," Batist said. "It's a wonderful opportunity to gain access to 75 companies and a wonderful market for internships searching. There's bound to be one that matches your interest."

The Wheatland Express schedule is available at the UI SUB information desk and a UI van will also provide transportation between Pullman and Moscow. The van will depart from UI at the turnaround south of the Library between Memorial Gym and the Library at 11:45 a.m. and will continue to pick students up every hour until 2:45 p.m.

UI students who plan on driving to WSU will be able to park according to: a UI Red permit is valid in WSU's Yellow, Red, and Blue zones. UI’s Blue, Silver and Green permits will be valid in WSU’s Blue zones.

For more information on the 1998 Summer Jobs Internship Fair, contact Batist at 885-5261 or Donna Walker, UI director of Multicultural Affairs (UCU 228) at 885-7716. An update of employers attending the fair is available on the Internet at <www.careers.wsu.edu>.
Over 75 Employers

Employers include:
- Accounting Guns, LLC
- Advanced Silicon Materials, Inc.
- AmeriCorps
- Aquarium Technology Corporation
- Boeing Employees’ Credit Union
- Broadmoor Golf Club
- Bureau of Land Management
- Camp Four Echoes-Girl Scouts
- College Creek Connect
- Department of Corrections
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- GTE Telephone Operations
- Hampton Inn
- Holland America Line Westours Inc.
- IBM Corporation
- Idaho Panhandle National Forest
- Inland Empire
- Oregon State Police
- Pacific Simulation, Inc.
- Panhandle Community College
- Sandpoint County Juvenile Court
- Sun Dial Hot Springs Resort
- Target
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- WA State Parks & Recreation Commission
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington State University

For Information call 800-5922 or 892-7736

UI Van & Wheatland Express Schedule available at:
- SUB Info Desk
- Cooperative Education (Ed 204)
- Office of Multicultural Affairs (UC 228)

- Driving:
  - UI Red: WSU Yellow, Red, Blue zones
  - UI Blue, Silver, Green: WSU Blue zones

Career Fair Guide

Available today at convenient locations including:
- Cooperative Education (Ed 204)
- Of Ice of Multicultural Affairs (UC 228)
- Student Union
- Satellite SUB
- Dean’s Offices, All Colleges
- Career Services
- Student Advising
- Registrar’s Office
- University Residence Offices
- Library
- Memorial Gym
- ASUI Kibbe Dome

Guides will be available when you register at the Fair; however, plan ahead by getting a guide EARLY.

State News

Bill to require payback of student fees used for political reasons passes house

BOISE — Legislation requiring people who use student fees to endorse or oppose statewide ballot issues to pay the money back has cleared the Idaho House.

The bill was sent to the Senate on Friday on a 45-16 vote.

The sponsor, Republican Bill Sall of Meridian and Jeff Allus of Hayden, said the measure was prompted by the 1994 controversy over Boise State University groups using student fees to publish a brochure against the One Percent property tax initiative.

“When we are not dealing with here — lobbyist, press conferences, or response from any entity when there is a request,” Sall said. “It’s the use of tax money to influence anybody on something that appears on the ballot.”

But Republican Rep. Maynard Miller, a University of Idaho professor, maintained the bill has far reaching implications and could be used to stifle public comment.

Sall agreed with Miller that it would be hard to squelch free speech but contended the bill would not do that.

“If you want to stand up and speak, do it loudly, but do it with your own money,” Sall said.

Dismissal not appropriate, court rules

BOISE — Dismissal of a drug charge is not appropriate when the defendant argues that the arresting officer went out of his jurisdiction, the Idaho Court of Appeals says.

Sherrie L. Phillips appealed District Judge Keith Northrop’s ruling to dismiss the charge. Phillips entered a conditional plea of guilty to a drug charge, reserving the right to appeal.

She said that when an undercover agent bought methamphetamine from her in 1995 for $175, it was in Garden City but the investigation involved Boise drug officers.

The Court of Appeals said Friday that although “extraterritorial activities” outside an office’s jurisdiction might lead to official sanction, civil or possible criminal liability, it is not basis for dismissal.

One hundred-year-old law repealed by Legislature

BOISE — When was the last time anybody saw a sheriff county going through the streets crying out that court was in session?

That is from pitiful days still is on the books. But maybe not for much longer. The Idaho House voted 61-4 on Friday to repeal it.

Rep. Kent Knez, R-Pocatello, told House members the requirement that the county sheriff serve as the “court clerk” dates from the 1860s. The duties of county sheriffs are covered more extensively in law adopted in 1968, he said.

“This is a cleanup bill to get something out that’s not needed,” Knez said.

Batt wants reduced prison numbers

BOISE — The last of Gov. Phil Batt’s recommendations to show the dramatic growth of Idaho’s prison population has cleared the state Senate.

The Senate unanimously on Friday for the legislative reclassification of misdemeanors all driving without privilege offenses that have been felony containing prison time.

The bill now goes to the House, where the other three are pending. They increase the flexibility of the parole board to deal with inmate release and reduce from five to six misdemeanants checking out under $250 and theft under $1,000.

Batt made the recommendations last summer after completing what he called his committee’s task of investigation into ways to free up space in the state’s overcrowded prisons.

But he has acknowledged that his proposals at best will move just several hundred of the 4,600 inmates out of the prison system at a savings of a few million dollars. Batt says it will ease — though no elimination — the need for building more expensive cell space in the future.
Learning from the masters

Many took advantage of the live jazz clinics offered by the artists who performed at Jazz Fest. Diana Krall on piano, Russell Malone on guitar, and Ben Wolfe on bass answered questions and played music for a full house at the Hatfug Theatre Saturday.

Jury impasse leads to mistrial in murder case

Associated Press
BOISE — A mistrial was declared Friday after jurors deadlocked over the first-degree murder charge against former prison guard Edward John Stevens for the 1996 slaying of 11-month-old Casey Whiteside.

After deliberating since Wednesday evening after a four-week trial, jurors told 4th District Judge Daniel Eismann they were unable to break an impasse and could not reach a verdict.

So Eismann dismissed the nine-man, three-woman panel and ordered a new trial to begin Aug. 3.

Stevens, 30, denied ever hitting, shaking or even spanking the baby, who had 76 bruises on his body at the time of his death.

Stevens testified that an 8-centimeter crack in Casey’s skull came from a fall down the stairs on Dec. 27, 1996, while Stevens was napping on a couch at the Meridian home he shared with the boy’s mother.

Prosecutors allege Stevens, who was a guard at the medium-security Idaho State Correctional Institution until last spring, slammed Casey’s head down on a bathtub as the final act of a history of abusing the baby.

Ada County Deputy Prosecutor Julianne Mehan said she was disappointed but would continue pursuing a first-degree murder case against Stevens, which could result in the death penalty if he is convicted.

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OPEN TO ALL UI STUDENTS!
Volunteers still needed to host

CHARLOTTE WEST
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On March 27, prospective University of Idaho students will be able to get a taste of college life.

The UI is sponsoring Vandal Friday, which allows high school seniors to spend a night on campus as well as register for next year's enrollment. "Basically, it is the biggest recruitment opportunity that we have experience in the campus," said Sean Wilson of New Student Services.

He said that 600 to 700 students are expected to attend. It is a chance for students to "assimilate" themselves to campus. During the day, there will be activities fair representing various student organizations, guest speakers, campus tours involving both the Residence Halls and the Greek system, as well as an opportunity to meet with academic advisors and register for classes.

"The biggest selling point is the first crack at the registration system," Wilson said. Lloyd Scott, director of New Student Services, said that Vandal Friday also promotes "bonding between the current student body and prospective members."

He said that the students who participated in previous years came away with a sense that "This is my school and this is where I want to live next year." Wilson said that Vandal Friday would not be possible without help from UI students. "The meaningful part is vaccination from members of the Greek system and Residence Halls. They are two entities that we could not operate without," he said.

[Last year], the whole campus really turned out for this thing. The student body was exceptional," Scott said.

One group that volunteers their time and effort is the Vandal Ambassadors. They are a group of 12 students who give tours of the Residence Halls.

January jobless rate declines as paycheck withholding remains strong

BOISE — The departure of holiday workers from the labor force in January followed a disappointing Christmas shopping season pushed Idaho's unemployment rate down nearly a quarter point last month.

The Department of Labor said the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 5.7 percent. That compared to the national jobless rate of 4.7 percent.

But the department also said the employment picture in Idaho during 1997 was not as bright as analysts originally believed.

Based on revised figures, unemployment last year actually averaged 5.3 percent, a third of a point higher than initial year-end projections and a point higher than jobless rate upward by as much as six-months of a point for every month but October, which remained unchanged at 5.1 percent. A rate that originally spanned between 4.8 and 5.3 percent turned out to range from 5.1 percent to 5.6 percent.

Because of those revisions, the January unemployment rate of 5 percent is the lowest since June 1995, when the rate dipped to 4.9 percent.

Average monthly employment during 1997, initially estimated at nearly 600,000, actually failed to cross the 600,000 plateau for the first time ever, ending up 200,000. The year started with 594,000 workers on the job and ended with just 607,000. But the labor force grew faster than that during the year.

January's decline in the jobless rate was due solely to a contraction in the work force. Total employment remained at just over 607,000.

The revisions for 1997, however, raised questions about the department's forecast in January that unemployment would average 4.7 percent in 1998 and 4.5 percent in 1999.

While but not as robust as originally thought, Idaho's labor situation was still strong enough to send individual income tax collections through January 10 percent ahead of a year earlier. Gov. Phil Batt was banking on growth of only 6.5 percent to finance the current budget.

The Division of Financial Management said income tax revenues for the first seven months of the budget year were $10.1 million higher than expected through the end of January and the sole reason the state has nearly a $10 million cash surplus.

And chief administration economist Michael Ferguson said the state's overall "revenue position going into the spring income tax filing season remains favorable."

Higher paycheck withholding was again a major factor in stronger growth rate and combined with higher-than-expected miscellaneous revenues to more offset lagging corporate and sales tax collections.

"Sales tax collections were the big disappointment for January, coming in $2 million below the target for the month," Ferguson said. "This is the largest variance in either direction experienced this fiscal year and reflects weak retail sales in the month of December."

But Ferguson said total collections remain close enough to the benchmark that the slipping so far can be easily made up before the end of the spending year on June 30.

The double-digit surplus should serve to keep legislative budget writers on tight reigns on the state's purse strings as they finalize the remainder of the 1998 state budget. A year ago in the midst of budget deliberations, the January revenue figures allowed collections off $12 million for the month, casting a real financial chill over the Legislature.

The improved employment picture that contributed to the state's cash surplus was apparent across all the populated areas of the state except in the Upper Snake River Valley.

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Is it fixed yet?

House approves bill allowing heavier truck weights

Associated Press

BOISE — The question whether to allow trucks up to 129,000 pounds on Idaho roads was sent to the Senate on Friday.

The House approved the bill raising the weight limit from 105,500 pounds following a debate matching safety concerns against the need to improve the transportation system carrying farm crops to market.

The vote was 48-20, with 45 of the 57 House Republicans supporting the bill, joined by Democrats Wendy Jaquet of Ketchum, Charles Cody of Orofino and Larry Watson of Wallace.

"This bill is really about our future," said sponsoring Rep. Jim Kempton, R-Albion.

He and other backers cited the railroads aren't doing an adequate job of moving commodities to market, and the Legislature should help the trucking industry by easing weight restrictions on a limited basis.

If the measure clears the Legislature and is approved by Gov. Phil Biane, trucks weighing up to 129,000 pounds would be allowed from Twin Falls south on U.S. Highway 93 to Utah, from Twin Falls on U.S. 93 to Rexburg and Ashton and in southeastern Idaho, from McCammon to Wyoming on U.S. 30 and from Ore to Idaho on Idaho 54 and U.S. 91.

That would allow some shipments to travel to neighboring states with heavier load limits. Utah and Wyoming allow shipments up to 129,000 pounds.

The measure also would lower the speed limits on Idaho interstate highways from 75 mph to 65 mph, but that would take congressional action to put into effect.

Opponents, led by Rep. Kent Keel, R-Pocatello, a railroad locomotive engineer, contended that the rail industry's recent problems are temporary, and lawmakers shouldn't take an ill-advised step with long-term consequences.

"There is no significant problem in the railroad industry now. Crops are moving, things are coming back to normal again," Kent said.

Kempton said after the vote he felt the truck weight legislation, which has been considered before, has more momentum now than ever. But he said it might have more trouble clearing the Senate.

In part, he said, that's because senators have not been subjected to the slower of information House members have received in the last few weeks.

The bill originally set several test routes across Idaho, state highway segments where the heavier weight limits would be allowed on a test basis.

The bill was amended to take out everything except four routes in southern and southeastern Idaho. Some northern Idaho lawmakers, including Cody, said they favored the bill because of that.

Rep. Bert Marley, D-McCammon, said he lives on one of the test routes and wouldn't want his wife subjected to the traffic hazards created by big trucks.

He argued that northern Idaho lawmakers amended themselves out of the bill, then contended it was good for Idaho. He maintained some of the southeastern Idaho routes to be traveled by the trucks are hilly, narrow, and winding.

Rep. lawmakers argued that they can't get their crops to market by rail anymore, and they need as much access to trucks as possible.

"We are in a disadvantaged position geographically," said Rep. Wayne Kendall, R-Aberdeen. "I appreciate the railroad, they have been a wonderful service over the years."

But he said the railroad no longer will handle individual cuts of grain, and farmers must have a way to get product to market.

The governor, who was publicly unhappy about Union Pacific Railroad's service problems and the length of time it took to correct them, called for the higher weights in his State of the State message.

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King of Vibes

The Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival ended on a pleasant note Saturday with Hamilton performing the hit songs such as "This Little Light of Mine" and "What a Wonderful World." Read more about the festival on page 10.

Photo by Bruce Twitchell

Correction Department completes return of 248 prisoners

BOISE — The Idaho Department of Correction has successfully completed returning 248 inmates to the state from prisons in Minnesota and Texas. The move announced in late January and completed late Thursday was forced by a $1.5 million cut from the amount Gov. Phil Batt sought for the agency to continue housing inmates out of state and in county jails through June.

That decision by the Legislature's Joint Finance Appropriations Committee was motivated by budget writers' desire to fill up a new 536-bed prison addition south of Boise as quickly as possible. Idaho still has 200 inmates being held at the Frio County Detention Center in Pearsall, Texas, and it is uncertain when they will be returned.

Forty-eight other inmates who had been at the Frio County facility were transferred back to Idaho Feb. 19, and all 200 inmates who had been at the Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton, Minn., were returned Thursday. Correction Department spokesman Mark Carnopis said hundreds of beds were still open at the new prison addition after most of the 159 Idaho inmates returned from a private prison in Louisiana since December were moved there in January.

Idaho was paying $49.95 a day to house each inmate at the Minnesota prison — or about $50,000 a day — and is paying $39.75 a day for each inmate held in Texas. The state began sending inmates to Minnesota in January 1996 and to the Texas facility in early 1997 to help ease crowding in Idaho’s prisons.

The state still has about 250 inmates backed up in county jails, and projected growth over the next two years figures to add 500 more inmates to the population.

Tobacco Wars

the battle for a smokefree america

and the r.j. reynolds family

He's a grandchild of tobacco company founder R.J. Reynolds, but the family brands, Camel and Winston, killed his father and eldest brother. So Patrick Reynolds turned his back on the cigarette industry, and since 1986 his speeches before Congress and State Legislatures, and his appearances and debates on TV and radio talk shows, have made him a nationally famous advocate for a tobacco free society.

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psssst...
UI sports information is a disgrace

By WES RIMEL
Opinion Editor

For years I’ve wondered about the University of Idaho’s advertising machine. Though the university is finally using some funds for advertising they must pay for, sometimes I am astounded about how they fail to utilize free sources of advertising. The other day one of our readers came to the Argonaut sports that there had been stories on the track team. Apparently, the Vandal men’s track and field team has several events that are one of the best in the country. In addition, Tawanda Chivira is one of the fastest track athletes in the world and competed in the Summer Olympic Games. Tawanda had made enough to find out even for the student at the university. And why is that? Well, the people at sports information must think they are too insignificant to even get a fax every now and then informing us that there is some kind of a bunch of records, or that one of the fastest men in the world won a race and gold for the Vandals. Some might say that if the Argonaut really feels the track team is important, send some reporters. That’s a valid point: unfortunately we don’t have the staff these days to send reporters and photographers to every event on campus. Besides, I did track in high school, and I’ll be the first to say that unless you are participating you have no clue what is going on. Track isn’t like basketball where everyone knows who the three-point is good, or in football where running into the end zone is a big deal. Nobody knows what times or distances are really good and which aren’t. And there are always so many different events going on at the same time a one-minute bathroom break could mean missing the record.

When the student paper can’t even get facts about world-class athletes that go to our school, is it really surprising that attendance for sports is down? Come to think of it, I don’t recall ever seeing some hugh fashion articles in local papers on how great the track team or individual member are. Gee, I wonder if they don’t have the same problem we do? If the university sports department paper can’t even get a fax, it certainly must not be newsworthy.

Maybe that is the same reason the Spokesman-Review runs 150 word articles on Vandal basketball. I’ve seen entire scores there is no even a box score to accompany it. Maybe it is the same reason the BSU basketball games in Boise are not even televised. I guess I was naively naive to think that playing BSU is a big enough deal. Idaho State in Moscow. After all, every time BSU plays Idaho in Moscow it is televised in Boise because it’s a big game. Considering this spectacular display of sports advertising, (and otherwise), it seems a real stretch that the Idaho football team will still be division I-A after their two worst ever seasons. When they can’t get students to come to games when the Kibbie Dome is inside and a virtual team’s threat from on-campus students, how do they expect to get anybody to Pullman for the Vandal “home games” in 1999? They seem to expect to magically fill a 30,000 seat stadium, which is 8 miles from Pullman, simply because they are deciding to play in it. That assumption is downright laughable.

Playing in a bigger stadium has never been much of an issue for most Vandals teams simply in the fear strategy of the sports department to hide information, it won’t be an issue for a long time.

Letters to the editor

UI’s real fans deserve some respect

I would like to write this letter on behalf of the fans in the removed section of the men’s basketball games. I hate going to almost all home games and I am never surprised at the game. I am not talking about the players because they are great, they do a wonderful job. The problem is the cheerleaders. I have to say I have seen better high school cheerleaders. I know they have talent — why don’t they use it? Every game I hear the same cheer three times and over and over.

You know that get pretty old. No wonder the stands are almost empty. The only people that get the crowd going are the players and the Vandal Gold dancers. I would also like to tell that the reserved fans fill more stands than the students do and they get all the good seats and the best places. The only time we get anything is when the Dance Team throws them to us. For once I would like to see the reserved section get tickets for a discount or something. The new slugger (snort) should GO MILK? It should be GOT A CLUB?

—Michelle Locifi

Don’t paint the streets — create a new Vandal

I hope that those who proposed that the UI paint its streets and hang signs from its lamp posts will have second thoughts. What is wrong with our university to resemble Pullman’s overrated fast food franchise?

One way to improve image would be to retire Joe Vandal. That drunken lust just doesn’t represent the cool and sophisticated scholars whoCheerleaders. The new Vandal would ride a horse. After touchdowns the overhead door of the Kibbie Dome would open and the new Vandal could come galloping in around the gridiron. The new Vandal could also swing across the Memorial Gym roof tie to a roof tree. Black, maybe, available at the Bookstore, could involve the campus in a Shakespearean game of confusing identities. Those could even be dances where everyone wows a Vandal maid. Symbols tucked in tights, or the new Pizza Pipeline water bottles. If you want more fans at the game then pay respect to the fans that are there the majority of the time — you know, the ones that cheer when a good play is made — not the ones that only cheer when something is in it for them. The people that cheer for the team deserve a game token — not those that only go to get pizza or a hotdog. The new slogans should be GET YOUR MUGS IN THE TANK OR GET MUGGED.

—Gifford Pierce

Flu shots can save weeks of suffering

By LANCE R. CUTFUS
Columnist

If you haven’t yet received a flu shot, you should seriously consider obtaining it. Nothing has been going around campus, and students left right and bright have fought various forms of sickness. The increased number of cases reported into the Student Health Center should convince anyone to get immunized. Nevertheless, I imagine that a good number of the student body is thinking just what I thought: “Oh, I won’t get anything. And even if I do, I won’t be down for more than a day.” It’s so interesting how we never think that something can come to us until one day it actually does.

In fact, I walked around campus naively until I actually got sick. I thought that I had just a new cold thing, until I woke up the following morning with my condition much worse than before. I felt completely drained of energy, and getting up and walking around would bring on spells of dizziness and disorientation. That’s when I decided to go to the Student Health Center.

What I thought that I went when I did, I was running a high fever in my slightly dehydrated body. I was dehydrated, in fact, that my body was extracting fluid from my blood supply to compensate for the loss of liquids in my body. I had to be hooked up to an IV for a good hour and a half.

Of course, the student’s will get it at the end of my visit only marked the beginning of my experience. Medicines aren’t cheap, and the experience diagnosis as costly. I was bedridden for a week. Sure, the medicines helped, but overall, I just had to wait for the illness to pass, and that meant a week in bed. I remembered that weekend very well because the weather was gorgeous outside. I wasn’t outside because I was in bed, but I could see the sunlight break forth through the air in my room as it shone through the window.

Fortunately, I had a considerable roommate and friends to help me as I waited out my week in bed. And I was anxious to return to class.

When I returned to my classes, I found a ton of make-up work to do in addition to all of the other assignments that all my classmates were doing. The load was so great for me that I ended up dropping a class. That was a month ago. Even at this writing, I am not completely caught up. Fortunately, I have professors who will bend over backwards to help their students, and I appreciate the way they each have sacrificed for me. But, believe me, doing all this make-up work is not the preferred way of doing things. The really sad part of this whole experience is that I could have avoided it in its entirety if I had only gone by the Student Health Center and obtained a flu shot. Certainly the six dollars I would have spent on a flu shot far less than the seven or eight I received for the various drugs, an IV, blood tests, chest X-rays, and the doctor’s time.

Also, according to the General Catalog, the insurance that we students are offered is on the free and schedule form is a premium for accident insurance — it does not cover sickness. So unless you have some insurance supplement that does cover sickness, you have to pay out of your own pocket.

If any of you want to keep taking your chances, you’d suggest that you think twice. You are risking more than your health. You can get immunity the way I got it, by getting the sickness and enduring the afterwards, or you can get a flu shot. The choice is yours. As far as I am concerned, I’ll be sure to get my flu shots in the future. I hate needles, but a momentary discomfort is much more preferable than getting all loons and all the inconveniences that come with it.
Why did you come to the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival?

"To hear all the concerts and get a chance to perform."

- Tyler Summers, Aldergrove, British Columbia, 17 Instrument: alto saxophone

"To learn more about jazz, and for the experience."

- David Esaki, Aldergrove, British Columbia, 15 Instrument: alto saxophone

"Because I enjoy it. It's really cool and our school comes to it every year."

- Hans Verhooven, Nelson, British Columbia, 16 Instrument: drums

"For the clinics. I like listening to the big-time jazz artists play."

- Tasha Lewis, Post Falls, Idaho, 16 Instrument: trumpet

Letter to the editor

Now Is the time to stop Hussein

I am writing this letter as a challenge to those individuals on this campus who wish to protest against the actions the U.S. military will foreseeably take against Iraq in the next couple of weeks. I don’t think everyone understands the gravity of the situation in the Persian Gulf. I am also writing to those around campus who don’t care. Mainly these are people who think we are safe and secure from the threat of nations like Iraq. Those individuals will live their lives, earn their money, and raise their children under the “protective umbrella” that our military intelligence and law enforcement agencies provide.

We are not told so you could think we are not in a war. We are not told so you could think we are not in a war on terrorism.

It is true that Iraq’s conventional military force is not much of a threat to be in any other Western nation, but what about its unconventional military forces? After the Gulf War it became apparent that the Iraqi government was spending large sums of money to produce nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. The real question we should ask is whether they would want to produce these sorts of weapons? Unlike the United States and USSR who produced these types of weapons during the Cold War, Iraq does not have a potential antagonist in the region, and they know they are no match for the United States or Israel in a conventional or nuclear war, so why build weapons of mass destruction?

I feel the best analogy can be summed up using the story of David and Goliath. Iraq feels like David; overwhelmingly small but small and have hidden weapon they can use to strike back against their “oppressors”. The United States is like Goliath. We are overwhelmingly powerful and in some ways arrogant. Like Goliath, our size and arrogance makes us vulnerable. In the case of Iraq, the sling used to bring down Goliath is analogous to a terrorist organization with a chemical or biological weapon. Our “arrogance” lies in the fact that we think that our borders are secure, and our citizens are safe from outside attack. In truth, the new era of world trade and international cooperation has made our borders extremely porous. It would be very easy to sneak a biological or chemical weapon into our country, and it would be very easy to use that weapon to strike at the very institutions that make our nation secure. If allowed to produce weapons of mass destruction, Iraq would not have to define us in a way to put our nation into a state of chaos.

Just assume we backed down and allowed Iraq to continue with their weapons program. In four or five years, with the help of ex-Russian scientists, they could genetically engineer a biological weapon with the killing power of the smallpox virus (if it is rumored the Russians have experimented with smallpox and smallpox-like), that is able to spread through the air, and has a long incubation period. The virus could then be packed into hairspray or shaving cream bottles. The bottles could then be smuggled into the country because at the present time the United States does not have the ability to detect a biological weapon.

One day, in Washington, D.C., these spray bottles could be placed where people naturally pass by. Maybe at a local sporting event or in an air-conditioning duct at a subway or airport terminal. The bottle would be designed to spray the virus into the air, kind of like “Raid” for humans. Eventually the virus would spread throughout a majority of the population.

One month later citizens would begin to die in no apparent cause. Hospitals, unable to handle the influx of sick people, may shut down, and our national government collapses as our politicians and military leaders become infected with the virus. Eventually, the viruses released at the airport could begin to spread to other continents, and a new worldwide epidemic manifests itself throughout the world. The virus could wipe out half the world’s population. The human race would be forced to rebuild and mourn its dead.

This scenario sounds gruesome, but it is the type of event that could occur if we don’t stop nations like Iraq from producing weapons of mass destruction. We are now at a timing point where we can make a difference by stopping the proliferation of these types of weapons. I don’t know if the air strikes we are planning will do the job, but they are a start.

Those of you who argue against military action say that we need to “give peace a chance” and give diplomacy one more time. It is now time to act— Hussein has had six years to end his weapons programs. The best way to kill a venemous snake is to take it out at the head. That is what we must do. So instead of protesting this action by the United States and allies, we should support the inevitable air strikes. We must show individuals like Saddam Hussein that we will not allow him to proliferate weapons of mass destruction.

-Jeff

Argonaut Letters & Guest Columns Policy

Submissions must be typed, signed and include the phone number and address of each writer. Mailed submissions should be sent to: Argonaut Editor, 301 Student Union, Moscow, ID, 83844-4271.

Submissions are also accepted via e-mail (argonaut@uidaho.edu) or by fax (208-885-2223). The Argonaut reserves the right to refuse or edit letters.
“Giants of Jazz” wraps up successful festival

by Heather Frye

A

other February and another great Jazz Fest. Saturday night’s OTE Giants of Jazz Concert wrapped up a long week of jazz concerts, competitions and clinics with an all-star four hour blowout. The Hampton Trombone Factory kicked off the show with a flash of brass that drew the members of the audience who were still milling about quickly to their seats. The Kenyon Barros Trio took the stage next to play a serene and mellow brand of jazz that had many audience members wandering off for coffee during their set.

However, they returned in droves when bassist Brian Bromberg walked on stage to deliver an energetic and improvisational slap bass tune. His performance was fiddled with a metronomic mix of percussion and slowly building rhythms that reverberated through the Kibbie Dome and kept the audience in silent thrall until they exploded with applause at the end. Bromberg’s performance was one of the highlights of the evening, proving why he has been noted as one of the finest lead bassists of his generation.

The audience rose to their feet once more when Lionel Hampton and his New York Big Band finally came on. Shouts of “Happy birthday Lionel!” and “We love you Lionel!” echoed throughout the dome as they swung into their first number. The tepid swing-style tunes sparked some of the younger attendees to turn the small area by the concession stands into an impromptu dance floor. Hampton himself performed superbly considering his age. At first his usually swinging vibraphone playing, for which he is famous, lacked its usual energy and soared occasionally from the melody that the band was playing. However, during the middle to latter part of the show he regained his energy and performed with all of his former vigor.

New York jazz vocalist Angela DeNino performed a sweet and sultry number between Hampton’s sets. Her voice and sax style are reminiscent of the early female jazz greats such as Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday, but also carry a unique and modern flair. The Candoli Brothers, a trumpet duo who have both played with many of the greatest musicians of the last fifty years followed DeNino.

“We don’t need no music,” exclaimed Pete Candoli as he and his brother launched into a brassy duet, wildly tossing increasingly more complex solos at one another.

After a touching rendition of “Over the Rainbow,” festival director Dr. Lynn Skinner presented Hampton with a letter from former President and First Lady George and Barbara Bush who declared him to be a “national treasure.” Governor Phil Bredesen’s brief appearance to declare February 28 “Lionel Hampton Day” met with much applause from the audience. Hampton accepted another award from his home state of Alabama, then launched into another roaring swing tune accompanied by Governor Bredesen on the clarinet. Bredesen played extremely well, prompting Hampton to declare “Governor, when you are done being governor, you can come play with my band!”

The winners of the student soloist categories impressed everyone with their budding talent. The young artists had never played together before and were given little time to prepare for their performance of the jazz tune “Mr. P.C.”

“We had about two minutes to prepare. The just said “Here is what you are playing, you solo second,” said Ryan Keberle, the trombone soloist winner from Bowinan, Montana. Despite their lack of time to prepare, the contest winners played remarkably well together, stepping confidently to play their own solos in the spotlight. All of the winners expressed pleasure at being onstage with Hampton. Grammy-nominated Diana Krall, her guitarist Russel Malone, and bassist Ben Wolfe served up a thrilling blend of blues-influenced jazz that inspired hoots, hollers and the occasional profusion of love from audience members.

“Per-ee-ell me a grape...slowly,” sang Krall in sultry cabean blue style. Mid set, Krall introduced eleven-year-old vocalist Haley Holden who held the audience literally spell bound as she belted out “Meadowlark” accompanied by Malone, in a voice that held more strength and soul than vocalist twice her age. The audience jumped to their feet for a long-standing ovation as she exited the stage. Holden only began training a year ago when she saw Krall perform in last year’s Jazz Fest.

Hampton wrapped up the night with two energetic big band tunes accompanied by his own band and all of the “Giants of Jazz” greats. Thirteen-year-old jazz violin prodigy Billy Custeress surrounded the audience with his electric improvisations.

To the audiences pleasure, Hampton rounded out the concert with a strong rendition of “Wonderful World,” spawning a rush of couples to the dance floor for slow dancing. The crowd wandered out slowly, lingering by the display cases and CD tables, trying to catch their fill of great jazz and fun to last until next year.

Lionel Hampton

Brian Bromberg

photos by Bruce Twitchell
Walt Disney continues to spin in his cryogenic chamber

The movie watching public will soon be treated to the new animation extravaganza brought to you by the tired folks at the Disney sweatshop. This feature length cartoon is called Mulan, and it’s guaranteed to give you the feeling that you’ve seen it before, in various other incarnations. It chronicles the adventures of a young Asian girl named Mulan who is forced to take over for her ailing father and become a soldier, battling invading Hun armies. It’s amazing how much this girl resembles former female Disney characters. It is almost as if Disney is afraid to make a character too ethnic in appearance, so they took Jasmine from Aladdin, put a nice bowl in her hair and chopsticks in her hair, and called her Asian.

And I’ll be damned if the heroine doesn’t have a couple of wise-cracking animal friends tagging along with her. One is an adorable little “wannabe” fire-breathing dragon named Mushu, while the other is a big eyed cricket named Cri-kee. I can’t wait to run down to Wal-Mart so I can buy all those cute little promotional pillowcases and lunchboxes with Mushu and Cri-kee’s countenances splattered all over them like an animated rash.

And I’ll be double-darned if the villain Shan-Yu doesn’t have a wise-cracking animal buddy of his own. And I’ll be thrice-darned if this particular creature isn’t another bird! (Let’s think back to Aladdin once again.)

I swear, if that bird still has the voice of Gilbert Godfryd, I shall defecate in my knickers. At least Disney had enough originality to employ three humming henchmen in the villain’s aid. I’m sure their worthy antics will provide some comic relief and allow us to relax during some of the tense moments. (Please note, and I just typed this paragraph in a sarcastic tone of voice.)

If Disney is going to regain any respect as feature length cartoon makers, they are going to have to break out of their formulaic mold and surprise us with something new. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Let the bad guy win now and then. People no longer want their “good will always reign over evil” crap. It makes Disney cartoons way too predictable. Go ahead, kill a dwarf or two. You already have plenty of them.

2. Show some more skin. Disney’s target audience has never been just the kiddies, so throw some animated monkey love in there. I’m not talking full-blown pornography, especially not in the case of Beauty and the Beast.

3. Quit butchering historical events. It does the youth of the world a disservice to tell them that Pocahontas lived happily ever after when she actually ended up dying miserably in England after John Smith brought various strains of deadly diseases to her homeland. Also, the real story was not that cute in real life. Believe me, I’ve seen pornos.

4. Do some drugs! Preferably those of the hallucinogenic persuasion. Hopefully they will aid you in coming up with new storylines and concepts. And have fun drawing! I don’t care if Mulan has a task protruding from her neck so long as the story is good. Disney has become too wrapped up in “what sells” to bother trying to be original. It’s like Argonaut copy editor Aaron Sobh once said, “Walt Disney has been spinning in his cryogenic chamber for so long that at such speeds, his body has probably taken the shape of an Otter Pop.”
International concert kicks off jazz weekend

By: SANDERSON

There were fewer “jazz giant” listed on the program and a comparatively small crowd who gathered in the Kibbie Dome when the final concert lights of the season went up. Despite a lack of buildings for Wednesday’s concert and some huts on uncomfortable bleacher seats, the International Jazz concert still boasted several surprising and fresh performances.

Audience members may not have recognized a few of the names on the long list of musicians who were at the end of many memorable performances. One unexpected marvel was a twelve-year-old violinist out of Nashville, Tenn.Fully Contrasas jammed and impressed with his flair of Eddie notes. With all the energy expected of a pre-teen, Cossar was quickly making a name for himself. He has opened for Lionel Hampton at the Blue Note and performed with some of Nashville’s top artists.

Other solo performers included Sergei Tennychev from Moscow, Russia. Tennychev dedicated his unusually resonant vibraphone solo to the vibist master himself, Lionel "Gama" Hampton.

A smooth and polished set by the Kenny Barron Trio was truly the highlight of the evening. The Trio showed a history of time spent working together in their ability to anticipate each other’s next musical move. Barron, on piano, was master in jazz phrasing which he played out with ease and sensitivity. Barron and his trio the keys. Barron was hired by jazz milestone Dizzy Gillespie where he gained much of his fame. Ben Riley, who played with Thelonious Monk for four years, gave a spirited performance on drums and proved to be a masterful percussionist. Meanwhile, gave a rich performance on bass.

Other outstanding bass performances included those by Brian Bromberg. Bromberg, a familiar face with the festival, generated enthusiastic audience reactions with his acoustic bass and greatly influenced by an electric bass style.

Another high point of the evening was Dee Daniels and her moments with the Kenny Barron Trio. In an intimate ballad accompanied by Barron’s soft piano chords, Daniels breathed out deep and rich low notes and drew out atmospheric high notes that seemed to come out of nothingness. Daniels wrapped up her performance with a beautiful rendition of the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”.

The night wrapped up with Latino flair by a group who produced a couple of danceable sambas. This mixed group of internationally well-known musicians included brass players and some energetic drummers from various parts of South America. Alex Acuna, from Peru, gave an all-out extended version of one of the group’s numbers. Saxophone players Paquito D’Rivera and Greg Abate produced a coherent jazz conversation in their improvisation during the set. Trombone Slide Hampton and trumpet player Chucho Valdés from Brazil also added to the set and ended the night with a more energetic improvisation.

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Paddling is a good cabin fever reliever

MARK DEERING
STAFF

March has arrived and thousands of Muscovites gaze through windows at leafless trees and endless miles of undulating dirt, searching for signs of an approaching spring, their hearts twisted in neartightness as they contemplate the cruel torture of a certain insufferable grounding.

March is a time of transition for outdoor enthusiasts and has a reputation for seeming excruciatingly long as winter lingers on through the dark and spring proceeds reluctantly. As we look forward longingly to warmer days and returning skis in the closet in exchange for rods, bikes, and backpacks, we often overlook great outdoor opportunities the third month has to offer. Caught in a tug of war between winter and spring, it is characterized by some of the best aspects of each. With weather gradually warming, snow and ice are disappearing from lakes and lowlands while the peace and serenity of winter have yet to give way to the recreational pandemonium of summer. For flatwater canoe and kayak paddlers, it is boating time.

March paddling rewards those brave enough to withstand a little cold air with the chance to experience tranquility on the water that is lost in warmer months. On calm March days on Northwest waters, wildlife abounds and paddlers may go hours without seeing waves other than those streaming from the bows of other boats and the ones made by rising trout. The ominous haze hanging over the surface of a lake is more likely to be a soothing morning mist than the blue smog beached from an outlawed Liveside. Fishing season is not yet in full swing and frigid waters ward off swimmers, water skiers, and riders of personal watercraft.

"[W]e see a lot more wildlife coming down to the water and we don't have to worry about powerboats or jet-skis," commented Ken Ohland, owner of Kent's Canoes and Kayaks in Spokane on the advantages of paddling in colder months like March.

Many paddlers willing to drive a few miles will find scoops of quality paddling opportunities. In northern Idaho, Ohland recommends the "big waters" for a first flatwater experience — lakes such as Cator d'Alene, Pend Oreille, and Priest. These areas are surprisingly placid during the cooler parts of the year and offer huge expanses of open water and shoreline to be explored. For those more adventuous souls willing to throw a tent in the boat and challenge the weather, Priest Lake provides easy water access to virtually deserted roadless public lands such as Barlow Island, Kalispel Island, and Upper Priest Lake.

As with any outdoor activity, safety is of special concern for canoeists and kayakers this time of year. Waters are cold and, in the event of a capsize, will quickly reduce the body temperature of a person to hypothermic levels. Paddlers should wear clothing made of wool or synthetics such as polypropolene because, unlike cotton, they will retain their insulative properties when wet. Wetsuits and drysuits are a good idea, according to Ohland, and will "buy time" for an accident victim and all passengers should wear flotation devices. Finally, always paddle with a partner, inform someone who is not in your group of your intended route, and check weather forecasts before showing off. The Outdoor Renst Center in the basement of the SUB will supply prospective paddlers with sea kayaks, canoes, and all related accessories at low student rates.

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A Look Ahead

- The Borah Theater brings you yet another classic of American cinema! On Mar. 6 at 7 p.m., the Moscow masses will be subjected to the movie that defines our way of life today, National Lampoon’s Animal House. Watch John Belushi demonstrate the life of a zit in brilliant pantomime! Beer will be drank! Togas will be worn!

- Jump Rope for Heart will take place at the McDonald Elementary School on March 6. Please support the American Heart Association and McDonald Elementary by giving donations. Help fight heart disease and chubby thighs.

- Foolish humans! If you have not seen the Andy Warhol exhibit yet, then you are too late! However, a new exhibit at the Prichard Art Gallery begins March 6 and goes through April 8, featuring the works of Glen Bach and Mel Strawin. Glen Bach’s body of work is entitled “Breaking the Sound Barrier” and is composed of digital mixed media. Mel Strawin’s body of work also consists of digital mixed media and is called “Transitions.”

- Join aging ’80s heart-throb Kevin Bacon and the aloof ’90s heart-throb Matt Dillon in an exclusive premier of their new movie, Wild Things. The movie will be simultaneously screened in the Borah Theater and 24 of America’s largest senior colleges. Following the FREE screening (did you see the word free?) members of the cast will be on hand to field students’ questions from across the country. This is made possible through the Network Event Theater’s state-of-the-art, digital satellite duo-dual system. Showtime is at 6 p.m. on March 10.

Attention Graduates!

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BSU too much for Vandals down the stretch

STEVE BLATNER
STAFF

As Lionel Hampton and company filled the Kibbie Dome with the sweet sounds of jazz this past Saturday, the University of Idaho women's basketball team was hoping to celebrate to the sound of Queen's "We are the Champions" across the street in Memorial Gym.

Any hopes of a Vandal victory party however, were squelched as archrival Boise State handed the Vandals a 73-63 loss.

The win by the Broncos (17-9,11-3) wrapped up first place in the Eastern Division of the Big West Conference and the loss dropped Idaho (14-14,9-5) to third.

A season high crowd of 1,535 basketball-crazy fans were on hand as seniors Kell Johnson, Melissa McDaniel, Lauren Newman, and Katheryn Gussion were honored before tip-off for the blood, sweat, and tears they devoted to the Idaho program.

Early on, Gussion established herself as a rebounding force for the Vandals. She hit the boards early and often to help Idaho get out to a five point lead. Gussion would continue cleaning the glass throughout the first half and led the UI team at halftime with 11 boards.

Sophomore Alli Nieman led the Vandals' offensive attack as she drained two early 3-pointers. Nieman had her inside game working as well, exploiting the Broncos defense with a nice up and under move. Nieman would pick up her second foul with 6:41 to play in the first half and was forced to watch the rest of the half from the bench with 12 points.

Fouls plagued the Vandals for much of the first half as Gussion, Nieman, and center Jennifer Stone each had two fouls at the break. Johnson was whistled for three fouls.

With Idaho in foul trouble, the BSU duo of Stumlke and Stellie Lewis brought the Broncos back from a 10 point deficit to take the Vandals at half 27-25.

The two teams played to a dead heat in the first half, each shooting 10-28 from the field for 36 percent and 2-5 for 40 percent from 3-point range.

Nieman led all scorers at the break with 12 points while Stumlke and Lewis paced the Broncos with five points each.

After the break, Idaho came out of the locker room looking flat and BSU took advantage. The Broncos went on an 8-0 run led by the inside play of Kim Brydges and 6-foot-4 inch redshirt freshman center Stephanie Block.

The Vandals would battle back, but without the services of Gussion, who picked up her third foul with 17:09 to play. Gussion would not return until the 11 minute mark.

Idaho broke a three-minute scoring drought when Nieman broke loose inside for two. The next time down the floor, sophomore sensation Susan Woolf nailed a 3-pointer to cut the Broncos' lead to three with 16:20 left to play.

BSU maintained a six point lead until the 12:55 mark when Idaho head coach Julie Holt picked up a technical for showing her displeasure with the officiating. One minute later the Vandals found themselves staking up at a nine point deficit.

After a timeout, Gussion checked back into the Vandal lineup and the defensive intensity immediately picked up. Idaho was forced to play inspired basketball and quickly cut into BSU's lead and eventually tied the game at 46.

Foul would once again be a factor in the Vandals' pursuit for a championship as Johnson was whistled for her fourth foul with just over eight minutes to play. The intense competition that Johnson is, assured coach Holt she could play with four fouls. And play she did.

Uncharacteristically, Johnson took her game inside scoring on lay-ups and drawing fouls. The senior guard rose to the occasion and with 3:50 to play, as she sank a 3-pointer to give the Vandals a one-point lead, 61-60.

The Broncos, however, did not panic and rattled off nine straight points, most coming from the charity stripe, to seal the victory and first place in the Eastern Division of the Big West.

Idaho was led by Nieman with 21 points on 9-16 shooting. Johnson chipped in 19 as she played inspired basketball down the stretch.

BSU was led by Block's 14 points and Lewis' clutch free throw shooting as the game came to a close.

In the conference tournament, the Vandals will play the No. 2 seed out of the New West, UC Irvine, a team Idaho beat earlier this year 71-61.

1998 Big West Women's Tournament Bracket

Boise State
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3:00 p.m. PST
Idaho
1:00 p.m. PST
UC Santa Barbara
6:00 p.m. PST
North Texas
8:30 p.m. PST
Nevada
8:30 p.m. PST
Cal State Fullerton

Idaho's Big West Season 9-5

JANUARY
8  UC Santa Barbara L 63-77
11  Cal Poly W 92-76
16  Cal State Fullerton W 86-77
18  UC Irvine W 71-61
22  Boise State L 56-71
26  Nevada W 75-74
30  Pacific L 53-60

FEBRUARY
6  North Texas W 76-69
8  New Mexico State W 67-60
13  North Texas W 89-58
20  New Mexico State W 79-65
22  Nevada L 80-91
26  Long Beach State W 93-62
28  Boise State L 73-63
The madness has already begun

BARRY GRAHAM

You can feel it in the air! During every sports newcast, no matter where you are, you can’t help but see basketball players raising their level of play. You see the marquee competitors hitting the tough jumpshot when the game is on the line, burying the three with no time left and helping their respective team win the close conference game.

It happened this past weekend and will continue to occur until one team in early April is crowned national champion. What do we call this magical time of the year? It’s “March Madness” and it can, indeed, drive you crazy.

It couldn’t be more true for the die-hard fans of college basketball. You first tune in to the conference tournaments late in February to see the champions of the Patriot League, the West Coast Conference and any of the other non-name leagues crowned. We congratulate these champions for getting that automatic berth into the NCAA tournament. However, we also know that the Manhattans, the Coppa States, and the Radfords of the world will be the 15 or 16 seeds and will have to beat the odds in order to stay alive and advance to the second round—come the big dance.

But we watch anyway. Then comes the real conference tournaments like the Big East, SEC, and of course the ACC. We all know just about every team from the three conferences that will get in, but watching these tournaments is still fun.

Finally comes the moment we have all been waiting for! Next Sunday, the tournament selection show will finally unveil the brackets and where our favorite teams will be playing. Of course, we complain and are slightly angry if our teams do not get the high seed that we had hoped or are put in a region that looks to have several roadblocks en route to the Final Four.

But after we settle down, we take our personalized Final Four bracket and begin to fill out who wins and who gets to go home earlier than expected. Why do we do all of this?

Well, a few reasons for our lunacy during this time of the year could first be that no other sporting events are able to captivate us as the NCAA tourney has been able to do.

These first two rounds may have quite a few upsets but the upset always plays a huge part of the tourney and the aforementioned teams like Manhattan or a Coppa State have nothing to lose and everything to gain in a format like this one.

When you get to the sweet 16 and elite eight, the great matchups usually take place as a North Carolina could face Kentucky or even a Connecticut for a spot in the Final Four.

Another reason to tune in to the NCAA journey revolves around the top notch talent on display. And I don’t just mean the players that you see from the ACC and the Big Ten but those players that aren’t “household” names like Charles Jones from Long Island University, who leads the nation in scoring with a 28 point average, or Earl Boykins from Eastern Michigan who is one of the best players that many people have not seen. Throw in the faces of players like a Trujes Langdon of Duke or a Richard Hamilton of Connecticut who are going to have to raise their level of play a notch in hopes of leading their teams deeper into the tournament.

What about styles? Take a look at highly ranked Texas Christian and the No. 1-ranked scoring offense in the nation at just under 100 points per game or look at top 10-ranked Princeton. Princeton has the No. 1 scoring defense in the nation. The NCAA tournament has both talent and surprise, which makes for an interesting month.

Then as the games begin to take shape, we become armchair coaches as to who gets the ball in the crunch and what define to see at a specific time. It not only is competitive for those players who actually compete in the games themselves but also for the millions of fans who eagerly wait for this time of the year.

So, a conference loses battle it out and keep your eyes peeled for the selection show on Sunday to see where your team will be placed for the greatest show on earth.

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Vandal
News and Notes

Men's Basketball
Despite a 20-point effort by Avery Curry, the Idaho men's basketball team dropped to the Boise State Broncos Saturday night at Boise, 72-58.
Curry went 5-15 from the field, 3-8 from 3-point range to lead the Vandal attack. Clifford Gray finished with 12 points and seven rebounds, but as for the rest of the Vandal team, scoring was relatively quiet.
Idaho trailed by six at the half, 38-32 despite better shooting from the field than the Broncos. But the second half was a completely different story, as Idaho went 8-of-32 for 25 percent, while BSU broke on 40 percent shooting. Tolman led the way for BSU with 25 points, hitting 7-of-13 from beyond the arc. He also led Boise State with 12 rebounds, eight on the defensive end.
Idaho drops to 15-11 overall, 9-7 in Big West play. Even with the loss, Idaho will advance to the Big West tournament this weekend in Reno. They will match up with No. 1 Pacific.

Women's Basketball
Idaho women's basketball players Susan Woelf and Kellie Johnson have been named in the GTE/CosiSIDA Academic All-American District VII Team. Woelf, a sophomore graphics design major, maintained a GPA of 3.89 years for her first-team selection while Johnson, a senior public communications major, earned a second-team selection with a GPA of 3.65.
Idaho was the only Big West School to be represented with a first-team selection and the only institution to have two athletes on the first and second team. Woelf will now be on the national GTE/CosiSIDA Women's Basketball Academic All-Americans ballot.
In order to be eligible for Academic All-American honors, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.20 cumulative GPA, must be a starter or an important reserve and be in at least their second season at their current school.

Football
The U of I's 1998 football schedule has a little bit of everything — the old, the new, and the renewed — and is the most difficult the Vandals have played in more than two decades.
"It will be a challenge," fourth-year head coach Tom Tormey said. "This is the most difficult schedule the UI has played in the last 25 years."
Idaho opens with a home game against traditional and regional rival Eastern Washington, which advanced to the NCAA Division I-AA semifinals last season before losing to eventual national champion Youngstown State. The Vandals then begin an odyssey that sends them on the road for seven of their first 10 games and matches them against three 1997-98 Bowl teams — Washington State, Louisiana State, and Utah State.
The road schedule is highlighted by the renewal of the "Battle of the Palouse" with Washington State (Feb. 19), the Sept. 26 game at Louisiana State and the season-finale at Boise State University (Nov. 21).
"There's a lot of excitement about the renewal of that rivalry," Tormey said. "It's the Washington State game, which is the first meeting between the border rivals since 1969 and is the first game in an eight-year deal signed by the two universities. "I know our kids are really excited to play Washington State."
Not only does the level of competition make the schedule a difficult one — Washington State lost 21-16 in the Rose Bowl to Arizona, and LSU defeated Notre Dame 27-9 in the Independence Bowl — but the Vandals will be spending a lot of time traveling.
"We just have to take the attitude that we're going to be road warriors," Tormey said.

ST. Patrick's Day Run
The Sportsman Striders Running Club is hosting its 20th annual St. Patrick's Day run Saturday, March 14 starting at 10 a.m. at Chico State High School. Registration for the five-mile course begins at 9 a.m. Registration fees received before March 8 are $4 or $14 with a long-sleeved T-shirt. Entry forms are available at Tri-State Outfitters and Galt Sports. For more information, call Bill at 746-8287.

Soccer
Moss Park and Recreation is accepting registration for Spring Youth Soccer and Junior Soccer through March 6. The season will run from mid-March and continue through early May. Early registration is encouraged.

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.

100 K Run
The 9th Annual Washington State University 100 K Run has been set for Sunday, April 5. The 62+ mile course follows a loop through the Palouse country of southeast Washington, starting and finishing at the WSU campus. The race is open to competitive and non-competitive teams and solo runners. Registration fees are $12 per member for relay teams and $35 for solo. Early registration deadline is Friday, March 13. Late fees will be charged on registration after March 13 with no registrations accepted after April 2.

Snow Reports
(as of 3-2-98)
Silver Mountain
New snow in last 24 hours — 2"
New snow in last week — 8"
Swedish Mountain
New snow in last 24 hours — 2"
New snow in last week — 4"
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