Thieves pocket projector

Adam E-H Wilson

When Riey Sadig explained why class would be short the Friday before spring break, his Computer Science 101 students laughed. It seemed a little ridiculous.

Someone had stolen the LCD computer projector that dangled from McClure 209's 10-foot-high ceiling. All that is left is the mounting bracket and a few loose wires.

The Media Center, however, was not very amused when geography department secretary Tracy Buck told them the $4,500 machine was gone. It was the property of Education Technology and Services, part of the Media Center.

Apparently the machine was taken on March 10 in the middle of the afternoon. Police say that there was likely a 40-minute window of opportunity wherein the thief or thieves could have stood on a table underneath the projector and detached it.

The projector had been used for a 11:30 a.m. class. Another professor noticed it was missing at 12:30 p.m., but assumed it had been taken down for repairs.

"It's not real big; it would probably fit into a backpack," Buck said.

The black device is slightly smaller and heavier than a VCR, and projects a computer's visual display onto a large screen.

But what the wrong-doers plan to do with the machine is less clear.

"I think it would be kinda hard to go to a pawn shop and hook," said Media Services Manager Kick Kelly.

Kelly said that the loss "hurts everyone involved," especially those that used the projector for instruction.

"It's kinda sad," Buck said, "because it was for the students' benefit."

Kelly said replacing the machine would be difficult. "We're trying to get one more in there, but I don't have a lot to go on," he said.

The Media Center was alerted to the projector's disappearance on Wednesday morning, when a professor said Buck it was gone. The case is currently called the police.

It's kinda sad... because it was for the students' benefit.

-Tracy Buck, geography department secretary

Rate increase proposed for Residence Halls

Charlotte West
Assistant News Editor

A fee increase has been proposed for the 1998-1999 Residence Hall room and board rates. A forum open to student discussion will be held tomorrow night at 6 p.m. in the Wallace Complex basement study lounge.

The increase is an average of 4 percent. Michael Grifflin, director of University Residence halls, said the funding will go toward covering technology costs and general operating costs. "The funding...grows to pay for the overall operation. Some of the increases have for been the telephone and the ethernet projects. That is a pretty significant cost and we're helping to pay for that," he said.

He also said the increase will help "keep pace with inflation." "It will also help pay for salary increases as well as tying academics and cultural events into the Residence Hall system.

The UI Residence Hall system has not had a room rate increase in the last few years. Grifflin said that the 4 percent roughly represents a 1 percent increase per year. "We haven't had a room increase since 1995 and we are doing faculty in the rooms," he said.

Over spring break, inspections were done of each Residence Hall room to determine how much work will need to be completed over the summer.

See Residence Hall page 3

*Proposed 1998-1999 Annual Residence Hall Room and Board Rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Proposed 1998-1999</th>
<th>Current 1997-1998</th>
<th>% Increase (rounded)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dil. Rm. &amp; Meal Plan &quot;L&quot; (265 meals/week)</td>
<td>$3,877</td>
<td>$3,624</td>
<td>$153 (4.06%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dil. Rm. &amp; Meal Plan &quot;P&quot; (200 meals &amp; $4.00 Flex/meal)</td>
<td>$3,859</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>1.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dil. Rm. &amp; Meal Plan &quot;V&quot; (150 meals and $100 Flex/meal=$4.06 per meal)</td>
<td>$3,805</td>
<td>$3,550</td>
<td>7.40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>**Dil. Rm. &amp; Meal Plan &quot;B&quot; (100 meals and $70 Flex/meal=$7.07 per meal)</td>
<td>$3,799</td>
<td>$3,656</td>
<td>4.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar's Residence Dil. Rm. &amp; Full Meal Plan</td>
<td>$2,017</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Residence Hall Room Additional Fee</td>
<td>$313.00</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>4.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Cooperative Room Additional Fee</td>
<td>$625.00</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
<td>4.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Term Only Contract Additional Fee</td>
<td>$132.50</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>32.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Source: Letter released to residents from University Residence

** It is proposed that Meal Plan "B" and be offered for the 1998-1999 year because of poor value to students. For the 1997-1998 the per meal cost was $6.86; the per meal cost for 1998-1999 would need to be $707 in order to meet Food Service costs. The elimination of Meal Plan "B" in exchange for a 1.2% increase for Meal Plan "V" is proposed.

Bookstore surveys students and faculty

Kate Lombardi

Faculty members and about 700 students are helping make a trip to the University Bookstore a more pleasant and less costly venture.

By analyzing the results of telephone and mail-in surveys, the Bookstore is working toward easing student and faculty frustrations.

Over the past month and into the next few weeks, students and professors are being surveyed about their general satisfaction with the Bookstore. The surveys ask for input on textbook availability, pricing, selection, computer products and store hours. "The goal of the survey is to understand and address the key issues which impact the satisfaction regarding store operations," said Manager Peg Godwin.

With the surveys, the Bookstore plans to get to the root of student and faculty concerns and address them the best they can.

"We hope that they will help us understand the complaints about the Bookstore and then figure out what we can do to help, such as understanding how students value textbooks," Godwin said.

The Bookstore, by understanding those student values, plans to bridge the gap between student budgets and ever-increasing textbook supply costs.

The cost of textbooks and the buy-back system were the areas that had the most complaints for the Bookstore. "We learned from the preliminary results of the student survey and other (graduating senior survey) that people were dissatisfied with the cost of textbooks," Godwin said. "Although the Bookstore cannot do much about prices, we are trying to balance other areas that have been commented on, such as the buyback policy."

Sophomore Jake Sanford had the same complaints. "I haven't sold any books back because I will hardly get any money back even though I paid an arm and a leg for them," Sanford said, "and I definitely pay a lot more for some of those books than I would if I didn't have to have them for a class.

The Bookstore is addressing these issues in order to make life a little bit easier for everyone."
**Local News**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Medical waste incinerator opposed**

PULLMAN — Plans for a new medical waste incinerator on the Washington State University campus are being criticized by a local citizen.

"I think this really deserves some tough questions," Steve McGhee, chairman of the Whitman County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, said last week.

The new $2.5 million incinerator would burn infectious medical waste, low-level radioactive waste, and patholigical waste, replacing an older incinerator that has operated since 1978. McGhee said he fears the community may lose an opportunity for a public airing on the matter because most residents are on spring break and out of town this week.

The university can’t wait until everyone is in class before proceeding with projects, said WSU Planning Manager Peter F. Grigs.

"Sometimes these dates just seem to fall in what are seemingly inconvenient times," he said. "There’s no insidious plot going on here. We’re trying to get projects done, and we’re trying to do it in an appropriate manner."

The incinerator requires a separate air pollution permit.

"They’re not the usual source of air pollutants; justifiably they do not require a greater level of scrutiny," said Jerry Scheiber of the state Department of Ecology.

Whitman County Environmental Health Director John Skyles said he is satisfied the incinerator won’t be a public health concern because it underwent a stringent environmental review.

"This is going to be an improvement," Skyles said. "They’ve been using an old incinerator that’s quite dated."

The new incinerator will burn hotter and cleaner, and it will have a scrubber to filter smokestack emissions, said Don Harris, WSU project director.

Each year, WSU’s agriculture and veterinary colleges generate tons of dead animals, which are used in research or die while being treated at the veterinary hospital.

Most go to a rendering plant in Spokane. Animals that die from infectious diseases, however, are not rendered.

The new incinerator will reduce the risk of spreading diseases, Skyles said, and it will take whole animals, alleviating the need to cut the carcasses into smaller pieces, WSU officials said.

A small percentage of the waste will be radioactive materials used by researchers to monitor body functions. Those materials are regulated by the state Department of Health.

Pullman resident Joan Honichan, a former city council member who requested a public hearing on the incinerator proposal, is not reassured.

"The community is entitled to at least one well publicized meeting to be able to discuss this publicly," she said. "Here we are supposed to be an educational community."

Instead of an advertised public hearing during the environmental impact study in 1990, WSU officials met with Honichan and another woman to address their concern.

Honichan’s husband, a WSU employee, works near the old incinerator and won’t be far from the new one.

"If it’s so damn safe, put it up next to French Ad," she said, referring to the school’s administration building.

**State News**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**House rejects bill to place U.S. Highway 95 plan on ballot**

BOISE — Promoters of accelerating improvements on U.S. Highway 95 suffered their second defeat in the Legislature in two years.

The House of Representatives voted 38-31 Friday to reject Sen. Jack Riggs’ bill to place it for a vote on highways 20, 30, 95 and 95 and State Highway 55 on the November ballot as an advisory vote.

Riggs, R-Coeur d’Alene, proposed vehicle registration fees hiking from $12 to $48 to pay for the highway projects over a 15-year period.

All of north central Idaho’s House members except Lewiston Republican Frank Burnel voted for Riggs’ measure. Rep. Jim Stoicheff, D-Sandpoint, was the only other northern Idaho lawmaker to vote against it.

Burnel said the proposal should be funded through a fuel tax increase because the cost to the average car owner would be less and tourists wouldn’t be put off by improving the highways.

"As difficult as it is and as important as Highway 95 is to north Idaho, this isn’t the way to go," he said.

Rep. Christian Zimmernann, R-Cascade, said the U.S. Highway 95 issue may die with the rejection of Riggs’ bill.

"If we keep it alive, then we have put all of us on the hot seat for the rest of the summer," he said. "There is no tax hike in this bill."

House Transportation Committee Chairman Jim Kempston, R-Abingdon, said there is not much doubt more work needs to be done on U.S. Highway 95.

Riggs’ bill was not originally designed as an advisory vote, he said. It also exempted vehicles older than eight years from the registration fee hike, although he admitted they damage the road just as much as newer vehicles.

A year ago, Senate Transportation Chairman Evan Fraser killed a House-approved bill to put as much as $400 million bond proposal to improve U.S. 95 on the ballot. The bonds would have been paid through a fuel tax and registration fee increase.

Fraser and Riggs conducted about a dozen public hearings along the highway’s route last fall about the needs and how to finance improvements.

**Today**

- Marketing Yourself with a Resume and Cover Letter, a workshop presented by Career Services, will be held today at 3:30 p.m. at the Career Services office in Brick Hall. Call 885-6121 for more information.

- KUID-TV and the UI Women’s Center are sponsoring the video presentation of "Violon on the Palouse" in the Brick Hall Faculty Lounge at 7 p.m. tonight. There will be a reception following the show.

**Tomorrow**

- The Off-Campus Job Search, a workshop presented by Career Services, will be held tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. at the Career Services office in Brick Hall. Call 885-6121 for more information.

- The UI Women’s Center will host a Women’s History Month program, the video presentation of "The Great, Albert of Pergamon Revisited: The Student Support Services will offer a workshop, "Dropping Preconceptions," Thursday, from 2-5 p.m. in CSSD 125. Preregistration is required. Call 885-6746 for more information.

**On Tuesday, April 2**

- Andrew Stewart, an history professor at the University of California at Berkeley, will give a lecture Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium, 100 Academic Bldg.


- Student Support Services will offer a workshop, "Dropping Preconceptions," Thursday, from 2-5 p.m. in CSSD 125. Preregistration is required. Call 885-6746 for more information.

- On Tuesday, April 2

- "Preparing for the Interview," a workshop presented by Career Services, will be held Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Career Services office in Brick Hall. Call 885-6121 for more information.

**Coming Events**

- The William Edgar Booth Foundation will be holding a program for UI and other regional students April 15-19. The theme is "Conflict and the Environment." Students can attend the program free by calling 1-888-886-2265 or visiting their websites: <www.maritn.uidaho.edu>.

- Pre-meeds: Dr. Michael Browne will offer MCAT Physics review sessions on March 28 and April 4 from 8:30 to 12:30 in Engineering Physics 122.

- On April 8 from 7:30 p.m., the Moscow School of Management will hold a free introductory class and Info Fair. Sign up by calling 885-6121.

- May 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Engineering/Physics 214. Dr. Kevin Tomovic will present "Approaches to Retail Consolidation in a Transformed Electricity Market."

- Napsy training from Lewis-Clark State College will be on the UI campus Tuesday, April 20, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Life Science 254 to advise students interested in nursing.

**Opportunities**

- Volunteers are needed, Vandal News on March 27 to lead campus tours. Molly Thieson or Sean Willes at New Student Services, 885-6165.

- Applications for scholarships for the ‘89-’90 school year are available for single parents and children of single parents at the Women’s Center. The deadline is April 15.

- Need help with your taxes? The UI School of Law is sponsoring Volunteer Income Tax Assistance for lower income taxpayers, seniors, citizens on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities. VITA volunteers will help taxpayers fill out basic tax forms every Saturday now until April 11 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the basement of the Law Building at the dell. For more information, call April April at 885-6548.

- The Student Counseling Center offers the following throughout the Spring semester:


- Workshops: Choosing a Major every Wednesday, 3:30-5 p.m., Stress Management April 20, and Reducing Test Anxiety May 7, 2:30-4 p.m. For more information call 885-3001 or stop by UCC 309 for more information.

- Summer and fall term schedule information is now available for viewing on the Web Registration’s Page at <www.uidaho.edu/registration>.

- If you learn by doing, sign up for one of seven field trips around the Pacific Northwest region, from May 7-18 during his Faculty Stewardship Conference, call 1- 888-886-2265 or visit <www.maritn.uidaho.edu.edu> for ticket information.
UI students charged in kidnapping

Cardine Long

Three University of Idaho freshmen have recently been charged with warrants and are facing kidnapping charges. Lewis Salter, 18-year-old, was arrested and booked into the Latah County Jail on second degree kidnapping charges with bail set at $5,000. David McRenna and Joshua Schorrman, both 18, turned themselves in after being sought by the police for several days. Daniel Weaver, chief of police, said both were able to post bail and are awaiting their court date.

On March 6, the Moscow Police Department received a report from a 19-year-old man that he was forcibly taken from his dorm room to a nearby field. The subject reported he was punched and kicked and his assailants accused him of revealing information to police in a recent drug investigation. According to the Spokesman-Review, Capt. Cameron Hershaw said that the assailants got the wrong idea when the police officers came through the dorms earlier on a routine check, but no information was provided. The men were all acquaintances.

Easier for students. Godwin stressed that the Bookstore understands how hard it is to squeeze by on a college student's budget. "Education is getting more expensive," Godwin said, "and we want to increase the value for everyone.' Students weren't the only ones surveyed, though. A separate survey was sent to faculty members at the end of spring break. The Bookstore wanted the survey to reflect the needs of the faculty in order to also serve them better. The Bookstore hopes to increase the understanding between students and faculty and address issues that both groups have.

Both surveys were designed specifically for the UI Bookstore. The student survey, which was conducted by a WSU Marketing Research course, was planned before second semester by the Bookstore and WSU professor Don Stem. After the 700 telephone surveys are completed, the results will be analyzed by a student team.

The results of the faculty survey will take longer. The survey was designed by the National Association of College Stores, where the final results will be tallied in order to preserve objectivity.

The Argonaut

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Res Hall from page 1

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He said they want each room to meet a quality standard and that they are "trying really hard to make a good product."

A flex-dollar rebate has been proposed as an incentive discount for students returning to the Residence Hall system. An additional $100 will be added to the accounts of students who renew their housing agreements by May 1 (Fifty dollars per semester).

Students renewing their contracts by May 15 will receive a 50% flex rebate.

Griffel said the University Residence office wants to focus on students' needs. "We really want to be customer service oriented. We [also] want to be directly tied to the mission of the university," he said.

Griffel encourages students to attend the forums tomorrow night. "The goal there is to get feedback from students," Griffel said.

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A black-founder fraternity
Five new members inducted into Phi Beta Sigma

Yvonne Wingett
Staff

The University of Idaho's chapter of the black-founder fraternity Phi Beta Sigma is boasting the addition of new members. Justin Franklin, Husan O. Smith, Jamaal Y. Cole, Jason E. Martin, and Andrew Uko-Uko became members of Phi Beta Sigma, Inc., at the end of February.

Phi Beta Sigma, Inc., is a black-founder fraternity, founded on Jan. 9, 1914, by "the most honorable Leonard F. Morse, the most honorable A. Langston Taylor, and the most honorable Charles I. Brown on Howard University in Washington, D.C.," said Timothy T. Wilson, president of UI's Phi Beta Sigma's Alpha Alpha Zeta chapter.

The Sigma's principles are exhibited in their motto "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity."

The fraternity was started because the founders felt that a lot of other fraternity and sorority groups were not helping the community like they should.

Although Phi Beta Sigma, Inc., is known to be a "predominately black fraternity," Wilson says, "we're not exclusively black...we do have white members."

The Alpha Alpha Zeta chapter was established on May 18, 1991, under the direction of Bro. Bennie Harris, state director of Idaho, along with Bros. Christopher Taylor and Noah Ramsey. Five UI college men, Everett Wilson, Devon Pearce, William Saffin, Eric Graves, and Calvert Johnson, were inducted into membership.

Together these eight men applied for — and were granted — a charter for establishing a chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, Inc., on the UI campus.

The fraternity is based on many things, including the principles "Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service." The Sigma's principles are exhibited in their motto, "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity."

Wilson says he and his brothers have been involved with many community service activities. They helped out at the Joe Vandal camp last year, read books to elementary school children, picked up clothes for the "Outreach" program, and helped their Washington State University chapter with a couple of activities.

Wilson says the fraternity is planning to require each member to do a community service project each year.

See next page

Attention Students!

Midterm grades for Spring 1998 will be available on the Web registration system.

The address for the Web registration system is http://www.uidaho.edu/registration

After logging in, choose the Student Information/Registration Menu, then choose the Student Records/Grades Menu, and then select Display Midterm Grades.

Midterm grades will NOT be distributed at the Registrar's Office.

Midterm grades will be scanned and available for viewing as soon as they are received in the Registrar's Office. Midterm grade reports are due from the faculty by 1:30 PM on Monday, March 16. If you do not find a midterm grade for a specific course by the end of the week, contact your instructor.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MIDTERM GRADE REPORTS

Why we strongly encourage all undergraduate students to view their midterm grades:

- Viewing your Midterm grades will confirm how you are doing in your courses. If you see any surprises or reasons for concern, you will have time to contact your instructor and your academic adviser for assistance and information.

- Viewing your midterm grades will allow you to make sure that your registration record is accurate. If you are not enrolled in a course that you are attending, you need to take action to add it. If a course that you are not attending is on your record, you need to take action to drop it.

- Checking the section numbers to be sure you are attending the correct one will alert you to any changes that you need to make. All of the courses on your schedule may be correct, but you need to be sure you are attending the section number for which you are registered.

- If you wait until you receive a failing grade to react to all error in your registration record, the process for correcting the record is more involved.
member to have a set amount of hours to donate to the community — somewhere from eight to 14 hours each month.

"Service is basically what we're about. Everything that we do as far as fundraisers, activities, or anything we do to raise money, generates money to help us pay for everything that we do to help the community," Wilson says.

When asked about the difference between a "traditional fraternity" versus a "black-founder fraternity," Wilson says he thinks "traditional fraternities" serve as more of a network, and with the "black-founder fraternity," they are actually going out and helping the community to help the "up-and-coming black youth."

Jerome S. Thomas, co-vice president of the Alpha Alpha Zeta chapter says Phi Beta Sigma provides him with something that he can relate to at this point in his life. He enjoys being affiliated with a fraternal brotherhood, because it helps him relate better to different situations, and he has a special bond with his brothers. The Phi Beta Sigma are the only fraternity to have a "constitutionally-bound" sister sorority, the Zeta Phi Beta.

The UI has two proud Zeta sisters on campus, senior Humrel S-Thompson, and sophomore Wessie Lee.

*Photos contributed by Timothy Wilson*
Student health coverage fails against a real plan

The maximum out-of-pocket costs for this person can be $2,000 per year, so even catastrophic injuries are covered. The costs could be endless under the student health plan.

In short, health care costs, in which a $15 copay, 20% of psychiatric, alcoholism and drug abuse is covered, as well as mental and nervous problems. In fact, there is a $10,000 lifetime maximum — which should be enough coverage for only the extremely troubled. Again, everything is covered 100 percent after copays which range from $20 to $150. The $150 copay is for hospital coverage, the others ($20-$25) would be for any out of hospital counseling, like seeing a psychiatrist. Again, none of this is covered by the student plan.

Other costs which are also covered include mammographies and prostate exams up to $65, prescriptions, mail-order birth control pills, and maternity care. Newborn well babies are covered for the first three days of life, sick babies for the first 31. None of this is covered with the student plan.

In addition, dental expenses are covered. The coverage includes a $100 lifetime deductible, and 100 percent of dental expenses are covered up to $1,200 a year. This covers routine and emergency exams. Again, no dental is covered under the student plan unless the tooth was injured in an accident.

Also covered for $12 per year, which I also included in the costs, is $10,000 life insurance. Levels can be raised, but that is probably adequate coverage for most college students. At least if you die in a wreck it will cover your funeral.

Exclusions for this plan include things like hair transplants, sex change operations and chewing injuries, not basic necessities like medical and dental coverage.

It appears pretty obvious to me that the student plan is seriously lacking. I would recommend people talk around and look for other ways to get coverage; they may even be able to find a real health plan, like the one I just analyzed, for a reasonable price. Even if different plan costs considerably more than the student plan, add up last year’s medical costs and decide which is the better deal.

Unless you never go to the dentist and never get sick, the choice is clear.

Editor’s note: This is Part Two of a two-part series analyzing student health insurance.

Editor's Note: Student health insurance costs $150 per school year to take advantage of the 80 percent they will pay.
Students should be responsible for their learning

Access to public records is getting more difficult

Many of you are unaware of an issue that will have devastating consequences on your "freedom of information" access here in Idaho. As a student and private citizen, I have requested looking at public records for years in different counties for research, and state agencies in Idaho, I have never been refused until recently.

While researching a case study of high school students from a single district, I discovered the election failed to follow the Idaho Code and that public money was being used for public election. I became involved with many in successfully defeating the election both in May and again in November of 1999.

Because of the misuse of public funds, Rexburg and Madison officials could have faced felony charges. In June 1997, the officials began to help me further access public records and the city and county responded.

I began by calling the attorney general's office that I only recognized ways to file a lawsuit against Madison County and the City of Rexburg for failure to release public records. In the fall of last year, I filed a lawsuit. Since our clients have been successful in stonewalling my hearing date. Remember, if they stonewall long enough, my time and resources will be used up and their resources will not be because they are funded by taxpayer money.

That is why my attorney, Bernstein, and I to date have not been able to secure a hearing date. Please consider the effects of this lawsuit if Madison County and the City of Rexburg were successful in locking up public records. It would set a dangerous precedent that would resound throughout the entire state of Idaho.

Do you think that if one county can retaliate against a citizen and lock up public records for years, other counties would not do the same? We are trying to get a voice on an opinion or on any issue because an elected official could realize in some form against us? Why are public records becoming so difficult to gain access to?

—Tonya Erickson

Letters to the editor

Our nation's health coverage has serious problems

We Rismal's position columns in the March 10 issue on student health coverage was stimulating and I look forward to the next column. There is a suggestion I would like to make. We focus columns maintain that students pay a large amount of money for very little coverage. It seems to be that the $154 students paid for fall semester (four months) is less than many people pay for a similar amount of coverage for one month.

Mr. Rismal's concern regarding things that are NOT covered by student insurance are the same as those in the "real world." It is difficult to comprehend that someone could be dying from diabetes, epilepsy and high blood pressure, to major "medical problems" such as cancer and kidney transplants, to "chronic conditions" such as back injuries or vision problems.

Many people who have had major medical problems like cancer and were insured through their current employment cannot be employed if they move to a new job because of the "pre-existing condition" exclusion. If they can, the cost is prohibitive.

Is it any wonder there is pressure for some sort of health "reform" or national health care program? Currently, millions of people are "insured" through Medicare because they are retired or disabled. Millions more are "insured" because the country that provides health insurance. Many millions are uninsured, most estimates are 15-20 percent of the population, so they want the best care even when they are poor. The result is that the bulk of the population (perhaps as high as 75 percent) has health insurance because of the direct or indirect aid of the taxpayers. What is the future of such a "system"? Think about it.

—Louie Regelin

Opinion 7
It's not the size of the Lebowski, it's how you use it

A movie review by Heather Frye

The Brothers Coen have done it again. A tale of ransom gone awry, multiple literal motives and unlikely heroes unfolds in *The Big Lebowski*, the latest addition to a long line of Coen cult classics.

Set in the early 1990s in Los Angeles during the Desert Storm conflict, *Lebowski* is an offbeat tale with a tongue-in-cheek "spirit of the West" flavor that is reinforced by Sam Elliot's voice overs and occasional cameos.

Jeff Lebowski (a.k.a. "The Dude"), played by a rather hefty Jeff Bridges, is an unemployed, slovenly, pot-smoking loser with a penchant for bowling and white Russians. He becomes entangled with a multitude of odd characters when he attempts to recover compensation for his rug which was rudely soiled by thugs looking for money owed to a porn king by the sympathetic wife of "The Big Lebowski," a vain and well-to-do philanthropist with the same moniker as The Dude.

A few twists of fate later, Bridges ends up as the bag man in a kidnapping exchange for the Big Lebowski's wife, which he foils with the help of his violent, overeager Vietnam vet bowling buddy, Walter Sobchak, played by John Goodman.

*Lebowski* holds much in common with the previous Coen brothers flicks, coming in as a nearly happy medium between *Fargo* and *Raising Arizona*. However, *Lebowski* sports a greater and more refined volume of all the elements that make Coen flicks cult classics.

A host of Coen regulars show up in *Lebowski*. John Goodman gives his best performance since his role as the devil in *Barton Fink*, another Coen classic. Steve Buscemi, of *Fargo* fame, plays Donny, the bowling trio's quiet sidekick who endures Goodman's endless insults. Buscemi does a good job in this role, but unfortunately it does not give him the opportunity to shine as an actor as much as his previous roles have. True to form, the Coens make room for a cameo role by John Turturro, who plays a dastardly sex offender turned Vietnam-wounded bowling king named Jesus.

Jeff Bridges is boisterously entertaining in the lead role, delivering a perfect straight-man rendition of a character that could easily be overdone. Other notable roles are Julianne Moore as The Big Lebowski's feminist art queen daughter and Plato as a member of a viscous hillbilly pop band.

The cinematography smacks mildly of genius, particularly in the two dream (or more accurately, knocked out cold) sequences. Wild perspectives such as the view of a bowling lane from the inside of the thumb hole on a bowling ball and a bowing dream sequence with Bridges as a porn star are worth the full movie ticket fare alone.

Due to the nature of the film, *Lebowski* isn't likely to make waves with the Academy bunch, but it is hands down one of the best, funniest and freshest films of the year and well worth seeing more than once. If you are an old fan of the Coen boys you will be more than pleased with their latest. If you haven't seen a Coen brothers film yet, you will soon be a convert.
The Caffeinated Rants of T. Scott Carpenter

News Flash:

The Family Circus is not funny

What, may I ask, happened to Garfield? Didn’t it used to be funny at one time? For that matter, what has happened to Peanuts? What has happened to cartoons in general? Is it just me? Do I not know how to laugh anymore?

As for Family Circus, we know what has happened to it. The quality of Bill Keane’s clean Christian gags has not dwindled in the least over the past 100 years. This is one of the advantages to creating lame cartoons from the start; once people get used to the fact that your cartoons aren’t the least bit humorous, you no longer need to even try. What kind of following does this cartoon have? What kind of people start their mornings by turning to the funnies section to find out what kind of innocent hijinks Billy, Dolly, and P.J. are up to now? It boggles my mind.

[The Family Circus] may appear simple and innocent, but it can get under your skin like a nest of starving chiggers.

I am reminded of one Family Circus cartoon in particular. It portrays an old man hammering a “for sale” sign into the ground in front of his house. The man has tears in his eyes and “thought balloons” above his head that allow the reader to see that he is reminiscing about all the good times he has had in the house with his friends and family. Meanwhile the Family Circus family drives by this pitiful scene in their conservative and practical little station wagon. It is at this point that Billy (that lovable scamp) asks his mother, “Mommmy, why is that man crying?”

What the hell kind of cartoon is that? When I wake up on a Sunday morning and lay on the floor in my ratty boxers scratching myself and reading the funnies, I don’t want to see that! I want to see Dagwood eating a sandwich the size of Andie the Giant’s head, and I want to see the lascivious General Halftrack ogling and sexually harassing the bosom Ms. Buxley. And I want to watch as the drunken Andy Capp boozes and hollers on women at the bar, knowing full well that once he goes home his surly wife will smash him upside the head with a rolling pin and kick him out into the street, forcing him to drink another flask of whiskey in an attempt to stay warm in the cold night air. That’s what I want to see! That’s good humor!! That’s much better than this abomination of the cartoon world which seems to feed on human misery and ruin everybody’s Sunday morning! I blame Bill Keane for the murders of John Lennon and JFK. His cartoons may appear simple and innocent, but it can get under your skin like a nest of starving chiggers.

As for Charles Schulz and his cartoon, Peanuts, it’s obvious that Mr. Schulz has been dead for the last 10 years and they’ve been hiding this fact from the public by running old cartoons with altered punchlines. By doing this, they are milking this piece of Americana for all it’s worth which I can’t blame them for, seeing as how newspapers don’t seem to care whether or not it’s funny. The only problem is that now the punchlines don’t work! It seems like if they were smart, however, they would follow in the footsteps of the people who do Superman and shake things up a little. I’m not interesting they should create Charlie Brown’s pupils and have him wear a skin tight blue suit. I’m merely suggesting breaking the mold of Charlie’s hum-drum life and getting him laid! That little red-headed girl has given him the run-around for too long. Playing hard to get is one thing, but for 20-plus years? Come on! Obviously if she didn’t like him stalking her all this time, she would have said something or called the cops by now. And Charlie had better move fast, because if that red-headed girl has a thing for dogs like Peppermint Patty does, I imagine Snoopy may be making his move before too long. Damn, he’s smooth!

The Dysfunctional Family Circus

Hey Jeffy, c’ mere and pull Daddy’s finger...har har har! Just kiddin’, why don’t ya go get another beer instead. What’s that? What did you call me you little @#*! Why I oughtta...
Digital art on display at Prichard

by Amy Sanderson

Artist Mel Strawn asks viewers to judge his art not for the tools used to create them, but for the emotions evoked. In works displayed at the current Prichard Gallery exhibit, he and fellow digital artist Glen Bach create shape and color infused pieces that only upon close examination reveal that they were created with a mouse and not a brush.

In Strawn’s exhibit Transitions and Bach’s Breaking the Sound Barrier, images surrounding this most recent art medium arise. For one, the two artists support an acceptance of this medium as a legitimate art form.

In his artist statement, Strawn argues against the prejudices toward this new art medium known as digital imaging. Explaining that a computer is an art tool like any other, Strawn states his works should not be labeled as “computer-generated” anymore than Michelangelo’s drawings should be called “pencil-generated.”

“They are about the color you experience and what they may remind you of or suggest. Accept them that way,” said Strawn.

Strawn’s works of modern technology evoke symbols and feelings of ancient times. Many of his large scale works printed on canvas resemble cave drawings on leather and stone backgrounds. And, while some works take on a primitive and tribal nature, others are composed of images from a modern world. Patterns similar to a computer circuit board or snow from a TV become subjects of other pieces.

Artworks by Glen Bach also strive for emotional effect on the viewer. Many of these works, including the series Scenes From Childhood, paint out a personal history.

Appreciative of the “fluidity” of the medium, Bach displays a collection of computer-manipulated collages from pieces of nostalgia and his own photographs and drawings. Many of the works recall childhood memories. In Pop, Bach takes advantage of the dual meaning of the word and includes images of an Orange Crush pop can and items like fishing lures associated with memories of a father.

A few eerie symbols are repeated in this collection of prints. Scissors and ear lobes recur in nearly every print and conjure up the well-known nightmare of Vincent Van Gogh. However, the images in Bach’s work are not a portrait of the painter but a symbol of Bach overcoming the loss of his hearing. In his artist statement, Bach openly explains the disability as a “vehicle for discovery, challenge and responsibility.”

In these surreal pictures, detached facial parts become mixed with images of objects like hypodermic needles and paper dolls. In one piece, a giant birthday cake is frosted with gargoyle faces and a large sign reading “keep out.” The usually happy imagery of a birthday party with a 1950s-style Betty Crocker birthday cake becomes a picture from a surreal experience.

What is most striking about Bach’s images is the realistic texture. It is nearly impossible to suppress the impulse to reach out and touch a print.

“My desire for the viewer is to be unaware that the image was created using digital technology,” writes Bach. Transitions and Breaking the Sound Barrier continue at the Prichard Gallery until April 8. Admission is free.

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Kwaramba shines at NCAA Indoor Championships

Idaho finishes in seven way tie for 24th

Steve Blatter

While many college students were on their way to overindulging in places like Mazzatini and Cancun, the University of Idaho men's track and field team headed to the Hoosier state to participate in the NCAA Track and Field Championships at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

The Vandals were led by triple jumper Chris Kwaramba, who finished second with a jump of 53 feet, 5 3/4 inches. Kwaramba, a junior from Ridgecrest, Zimbabwe, held the lead until the final jump when defending triple jump champion Robert Howard from Arkansas catapulted himself into the lead with a jump of 54-1 3/4.

Howard, known as "Mr. Clutch," a nickname given to him by his coach John McDonnell, lived up to his reputation and won his final jump despite competing with a sore right Achilles' tendon.


In relay action, the Vandals 4x400 relay team finished 10th when leadoff runner Felix Kamangire was bumped after the first 200 meters and fell.

Heading into Indianapolis, the Vandals relay team had one of the fastest times in the nation, but were without speedster and 400 meter specialist Tawanda Chiwera, who broke an ankle at the USTAF Championships in February.

The Baylor Bears won the relay with a time of 3 minutes, 6.38 seconds. The Baylor women also won the 4x400 championship, the first time in meet history that the same school won both races.

In team competition, the Vandals finished tied for 24th with Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Dartmouth, Colorado State, and George Mason.

Arkansas continued its domination of college track and field by winning their 14th title in 15 years and their second in a row at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

The Razorbacks, led by Howard's victory in the triple jump, chalked up 56 points to edge Pac 10 power Stanford.

Palouse rival Washington State finished third with Clemson.

Distance runner Bernard Lager led the Cougar attack with a second place finish in the 3,000 with a time of 7 minutes, 46.43 seconds.

Bohn geared up to lead UI athletics

Barry Graham

On March 16, the University of Idaho hired Mike Bohn as the new director of athletics. Bohn, 37, comes to Idaho from Colorado State University, where he was the associate athletic director for External Operations since August 1995. Prior to his time at CSU, Bohn was the director of marketing for the College Football Association for three years.

Bohn's blend of experience with the CFA and intercollegiate athletics made him an outstanding choice, UI president Bob Hoover said.

"We are pleased to have Mike Bohn as the director of athletics at the University of Idaho," Hoover said. "He brings the talent necessary for our program's advancement in these next years. He is an exciting personality with excellent management skills."

Idaho's push for full 1-1 status brings an extra dimension to the athletic director's job for Bohn, who sees as top priorities hiring a replacement for women's basketball coach Julie Holt and solidifying a contract for men's basketball coach David Farrar. To that, add the 1999 move to Martin Stadium in Pullman for the football team and the eventual move back to the UI campus.

"I see our most pressing issues as solidifying our two head basketball coaches' contracts, expanding our facilities, solidifying our agreement with Washington State for the use of Martin Stadium and building the booster and season-ticket bases," Bohn said.

Bohn was also an assistant athletic director at the Air Force Academy (1984-92) and a graduate assistant football coach at Ohio University, where he earned his master's degree in Sports Administration in 1983. He earned his bachelor's degree in communications from Kansas in 1983.

"It's exciting to be at the University of Idaho, where the institution is going through a growth process with a president who understands, supports and believes in athletics and an existing staff of dedicated, committed people," Bohn said. "Couple these factors with a strong tradition and a great place to raise a family and this becomes an outstanding opportunity for success."

UI golf on the rise

Todd Mordhorst

The University of Idaho’s men’s and women’s golf teams have made great strides in the past few years and may be on the verge of becoming potential powers. Seniors Eddie Kavans and Marc Bernhardt have led their respective teams this year and look to have a solid finish this spring.

The Idaho men entered this year with high expectations, but the team has been depleted by the departure of several players. Head coach Don Rasmussen said the loss of players has hurt, but the team is still competitive.

"At the beginning of the year, I really thought we were a team that could reach regionals. Now, we’re a team starting out the spring kind of with our backs to the wall. For some of the guys it’s just check time."

The team has played well, but Rasmussen said he knows his players can be more competitive if they work at it.

"We’ve been a program for the last two years with a lot of..."
Graduate Student Association Election

Polling Locations

Student Union Building
Administration Building
Library

March 30 & 31
10:30-3:30

Women’s Fast Pitch Softball

Women’s fast pitch softball players are needed to help start a club softball in the Student Union Building. If you are interested in playing, please contact Dawn Hopf at 885-8720 or e-mail her at <dhopf98@uidaho.edu>.

Jr. Volleyball Tour

The Jr. Volleyball Tour is currently accepting applications for boys and girls ages 10-12, who are accomplished volleyball players to represent the U.S. in the 1998 Goodwill Ambassadors World Tour. Registration is due no later than March 31. For additional tour information, contact the Sports for youth office at (208) 251-6591, e-mail at girls@viballiance.com, or write at 18475 Olympic Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007.

Spring Registration

Moscow Parks and Recreation’s spring brochure is available and program registration is now open. For more information, please call 883-7065.

Soccer

Moscow Parks and Recreation is recruiting volunteer coaches and paid officials for boys and girls grades 1-7. Officials will be paid $7.50 per game with the number of games varying between 4-12 a week. For further information, call Moscow Parks and Recreation at 883-7065.

100 K Run

The 5th Annual Washington State University 100 Run has been set for Sunday, April 5. The 62-mile course follows a loop through the Palouse country of southeastern Washington, starting and finishing at the WSU campus.

Fourth Annual Chris Tormey Golf Tournament

May 2-3 sees the Silver and Gold intra-squad spring workouts, and, 1998 Big Sky championship team selection and the fourth annual Chris Tormey golf tournament. Entry fees for the tournament are $60 which includes shuttle, lunch, dinner and green fees. For more information, please call (208) 885-0200.

For more information, contact the
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From page 11 — potential and now it’s time to get the job done.”

The Vandals competed at the Oregon Duck Invitational before spring break with the hopes of playing at the level of conference power Nevada. The Wolf Pack ended up in second place, while Idaho tied for 13th in the very competitive field. Rasmussen said his team didn’t perform down the stretch, which was evident by the final team score of 308. On the other hand, Nevada came through with a 279 in the final round to finish just one stroke out for the tournament.

Eddie Kavan paced the men, finishing tied for 33rd with a +6, while fellow senior Tyler Sullivan finished at +7. Kavan has his sights set on qualifying for the regional tournament and highlighted last fall with a second place finish at the Wolf Pack Classic in Reno, Nev. He has been ranked as high as 70th in the nation and is one of the top players in the Big West.

Kavan said he would like to see the team play well at the Big West Championships and has set a personal goal of making the regional tournament. He is currently one of two individuals in line for a spot at regionals.

While the men were in Oregon, the UI women were on the Atlantic coast for a tournament of their own. The Vandals faced tough competition in South Carolina and placed 13th out of 18 teams. The women’s team is looking to improve on its third place Big West finish of last year.

“Certainly I feel we could do no worse than we did last year and even improve by a spot. We’ve got to play well, though,” Rasmussen said.

Senior Marcy Bernhardt leads the Vandals along with Sara Thompson, Trisha Elmquist, and Elizabeth Reagan.

The team standing in the way of a Big West championship on the women’s side is New Mexico State. They are a nationally-ranked team and Rasmussen expects them to win the championship.

Rasmussen said the improvement in women’s collegiate golf overall has been remarkable.

“I remember when I took over the women’s program (four years ago) there was one girl in the Big Sky Conference that could shoot in the 70s. Now every team has three or four girls capable of shooting in the 70s on a regular basis. I think it’s great for the game of golf and for women’s golf at the collegiate level.”

The UI women will host the UI Invitational March 30-31, and among the 11 teams competing will be Wyoming, Boise State, North Texas, British Columbia, Sacramento State, and Eastern Washington.

Rasmussen took over both men’s and women’s programs two years ago and enjoys every aspect of his job.

“Coaching golf is a lot different than other sports. It’s a passive situation and a lot of the coaching takes place away from the tournament itself. One of the things I find us working on the most is the mental aspect of the game. By the time most people get to this level their swing is pretty good, so it’s not as much technique as it is course management, and how to approach the game,” Rasmussen said.”

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